





# Amnesty assails Israel's 'administrative detention'

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International has accused Israel of violating basic human rights by detaining without trial more than 5,000 Palestinians since the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza began in December 1987.

The London-based human rights organisation said Thursday that at least 1,100 of the Palestinians remained in "administrative detention," most in harsh conditions in the Ketzioz prisoner camp in the southern desert.

"Amnesty International believes that the existing practice... falls short of international human rights standard," it said in a report on detention without trial during the uprising.

Calling on Israel to review use of detention, Amnesty said: "Administrative detention can and has been abused to detain prisoners of conscience, held for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of expression

and association."

Most detainees, Amnesty said, are held for six months and must wait weeks or months before they can appeal to a military judge.

"Even then, in almost every single case, detainees and their lawyers are not given sufficient specific information to enable them to exercise effectively their right to challenge the detention order," the report said.

"Administrative detention" in Israel and the occupied territories is based on emergency regulations enacted in 1945 by British mandatory authorities in Palestine.

Detainees in the uprising have included journalists, trade union-

ists, academics, doctors, lawyers, teachers and human rights workers.

"The authorities have maintained that some were involved in demonstrations, throwing stones or other missiles, or setting up roadblocks," Amnesty said.

Others were alleged to be Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) activists spearheading the uprising.

"Those who are held on account of their non-violent political opinions or activities should be released immediately and unconditionally," the report said.

Amnesty urged that others should be allowed to lodge prompt appeals.

Israeli authorities stepped up the use of "administrative detention" in March 1988, suspending prompt, automatic judicial review of detention orders and allowing any officer above the rank of colonel to issue them, the report said.



Foreign experts teach Afghans to probe for landmines in a camp in Pakistan

## Kabul says refugees returning

KABUL (AP) — The government said Tuesday that in the last two weeks at least 4,000 refugee families had left camps in Pakistan and Iran and returned to their war-devastated homeland.

Refugees were returning mainly to the western province of Herat and the southern provinces of Kandahar, Nangahar and Logar, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani.

Pakistan-based guerrillas were using force in some cases to prevent more refugees from returning, Amani said.

"Without the refugees, the guerrillas have nothing," he said.

The government's estimate of returning refugees could not be immediately verified independently.

An estimated one-third of Afghanistan's 15 million population fled the 11-year-old insurgency against the Soviet-backed communist government headed by President Najibullah.

Refugees have started to trickle back since Soviet troops left Afghanistan Feb. 15, ending a nine-year intervention.

Najibullah Monday appealed for refugees to return home and

help rebuild the country.

"Now the peace march is starting. We open our doors to you. We will share our bread with you," he said in a speech broadcast on government-run television and radio.

In 1987, Najibullah announced a "national reconciliation" and offered enticements to the five million refugees, including returning property, granting them special loans and a six-month exemption from military service.

By official count, 200,000 refugees have responded to the offer.

There are deterrents to the return of families to their villages, most which are under guerrilla control. Refugees fear the continuing war and land mines, millions of which were placed throughout the country.

In a related development, Amani said government forces recaptured the garrison of Samarkhel in Jalalabad, which has been under guerrilla attack since March. The garrison fell to the rebels early in the siege.

Amani also said the government forces pushed the guerrillas 25 kilometres from the city.

The government claims could

not be independently verified but air activity and missiles launched from the capital towards Jalalabad indicated fighting continued.

A U.N. delegation met Afghan rebels in Tehran Tuesday to discuss elections for a broad-based government in their country, Tehran Radio reported.

It quoted Seven Bnon, adviser to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, as saying both Moscow and the Kabul government had accepted there should be political changes.

"The secretary general is committed to help the Afghan people. He wants peace to be established and a broad-based government to take over in that country after elections," the radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Bnon as saying.

Alijan Zahedi, spokesman for a coalition of eight Mujahideen groups in Tehran, told Bnon that U.S. and Soviet interference hampered free elections in Afghanistan.

Bnon, who arrived in Tehran Friday with Perez de Cuellar's assistant Dominico Picco, has also held two rounds of talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Shevardnadze postpones visits

MOSCOW (AP) — Changes in the schedule of the Congress of People's Deputies have forced Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to postpone his official visits to Greece and Cyprus, a government spokesman said Tuesday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said the visits would take place at a later unspecified date. Shevardnadze flew to Paris Tuesday for the opening session of an East-West conference on human rights and was to return Wednesday, Gerasimov said. The decision to cancel the visits was reached by mutual agreement, he said. It became necessary "because the Congress of People's Deputies will work longer than earlier scheduled," he said.

### U.N. seeks more money for Sudan relief

NAIROBI (AP) — The director of a United Nations relief effort to avert starvation in the southern Sudan said Tuesday he would seek \$50 million more for the operation. James Grant, head of Operation Lifeline Sudan, said the \$130 million originally donated by U.N.-member nations and private organisations will not see the project to completion. Speaking at a news conference in Nairobi, Grant said he would appeal for more money at a donors' conference in New York June 13 to carry the operation through the end of the year. He said two-thirds of the additional \$50 million would be earmarked for the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose Operation Lifeline funding expires June 30.

### MPs call for foreign fleet pullout

NICOSIA (AP) — A conference of Mediterranean parliamentarians ended here Tuesday with a call for the withdrawal of all foreign fleets from their sea. A communiqué at the end of the two-day meeting said this would be "a first step in the direction of eliminating tension and securing a favourable environment for the transformation of the region into a zone of peace and security." It added that the security of the region was a matter for the littoral states and "can only be achieved through understanding and cooperation among the Mediterranean countries, including cooperation in the fields of culture, economics, commerce and transportation." The conference was attended by mainly leftist parliamentarians from only 10 of the 18 littoral states, including the Palestine National Council. Those present came from the parliaments of Cyprus, France, Greece, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Syria and Yugoslavia.

### Mandate of UNDOF renewed

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council Tuesday routinely extended the mandate of the 15-year-old U.N. Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Middle East for six months. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in a report to the 15-member council that UNDOF successfully has been supervising the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces since May 1974. He said the Israeli-Syria sector has been quiet for the past six months, but said the continued presence of UNDOF was essential.

### Prince Sultan holds talks in London

LONDON (AP) — Defence Secretary George Younger and his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Prince Sultan, held talks in London Tuesday on "matters of mutual interest," the Ministry of Defence said. The ministry did not release any details of the 45-minute meeting.

## Third round of U.S.-PLO talks soon

TUNIS (R) — The United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will soon resume official talks in Tunis, Palestinian news agency Wafa said Wednesday.

The agency said the decision to hold a third round of talks was taken Tuesday when PLO representative Hakan Balaban and U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau had an informal meeting.

Washington requested the meeting following last week's emergency Arab summit in Casablanca and Secretary of State James Baker's statement calling on Palestinians and Israelis to make moves towards peace.

Wafa said Tuesday's meeting was also devoted to the PLO's position on the elections proposed in the occupied territories by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The PLO's Peace Strategy to

achieve an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel was given unanimous Arab support at the Casablanca summit which ended Friday.

Tuesday's talks in Tunis came after Baker set out specific steps for the Palestinians and Israel to advance the Middle East peace process.

The meeting in Tunis was called at the Americans' request, said a State Department official in Washington.

He declined to provide any details of the session, which he described as informal, saying only that it was meant to foster the U.S.-PLO dialogue on Middle East peace.

The Bush administration has begun a new initiative to bring Israelis and Palestinians into direct negotiations centred mostly on the Israeli proposal for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Baker, in his first major

speech on the Middle East, last week urged both sides to take specific steps to help build an atmosphere of trust between enemies and said it was "high time for serious political dialogue" between Israelis and Palestinians.

He called on Israel to fore-wear annexation of the occupied territories, stop settlement activity, allow schools to reopen and "reach out to Palestinians as neighbours who deserve political rights."

He said Palestinians should "speak with one voice for peace" and translate the 18-month-old uprising from a "dialogue of violence... into a dialogue of politics and diplomacy."

Baker also urged Palestinians to accept the idea of elections in the occupied territories and to work with the United States and Israel to mould it into an acceptable form.

## Palestinian video documents uprising

By Marjorie Olsner  
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Alongside the usual action thrillers and B-movies, video shops in Arah Jerusalem are discreetly offering new fare — intifada videos.

These are films of the Palestinian uprising rarely seen on Israel Television.

In towns, villages and refugee camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians with hand-held video cameras are filming clashes and marches where the army hars network television crews.

Palestinians have come to realise the impact of pictures which have drawn international sympathy for their 17-month rebellion against Israeli occupation.

Amateur cameramen are increasingly supplying videotapes of protests and secret paramilitary marches of the Palestinian "Popular Army" to foreign news networks and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders abroad, activists said.

Videos were smuggled to PLO headquarters to prove the para-military units existed and to back requests for money.

"There is a growing awareness of the power and importance of pictures," said Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttab. "But there are not enough people who understand that power."

Intifada video is a patriotic service for some, a business for others.

Ahmed, a cameraman in the West Bank, said taking pictures of demonstrations was his contribution to the intifada.

"I don't throw stones, I feel like I am doing something for the people," Ahmad said, he added Palestinians tended to respect only those who were injured or imprisoned in the uprising.

Hisham, who works regularly for foreign television, said he shoots for professional experience and for the money.

Both men asked that their real identities be concealed.

U.S. television networks, facing increasing restrictions in covering remote areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, first put small video cameras in the hands of local Palestinians in November 1988.

Israel had barred the media from the occupied territories during a meeting in Algiers of the Palestine National Council (PNC) which declared an independent state.

"The army was clamping down and closing off areas," said one network bureau chief. "Crews couldn't be everywhere. So it made sense to give cameras to locals. It's the only way to get pictures when the authorities close an area."

Israel television, broadcasting in Hebrew and Arabic, rarely shows film of violent clashes between troops and Palestinians.

Its coverage of the uprising has mainly consisted of long shots of shuttered shops and empty streets during curfews, with soldiers filmed on patrol, often from behind.

Aware of the power of images in sustaining the revolt, Palestinians have established a documentation centre to collect videotapes and newspaper articles about the uprising.

The centre has produced two documentaries with home video cameras about Arab life under Israeli rule since the uprising began in December 1987.

One entitled "Education Under Occupation" examines Israel's closure of Palestinian schools and traces the development of underground popular education in the occupied territories.

In one scene, three-year-old children in an underground West Bank nursery school play

a game called "intifada." They make mock roadblocks, with building blocks, "protesters" stone "soldiers" wearing red headbands who club them over the head.

The centre's founder, Walid Atala, said he hoped the centre would become an embryonic Palestinian television studio producing news and documentaries for the Arab World.

To satisfy the hunger for news of the revolt, enterprising Palestinian video-owners have made montages of intifada pictures from Jordanian, Syrian and foreign television broadcasts.

Films circulating clandestinely in the West Bank are far more graphic than those on Israeli Television, showing arrests, beatings, shootings and confrontations.

Friends and neighbours watch the videos together for their nightly entertainment. Despite the poor quality, some tapes end up on video shop shelves for rent at about \$1 a day.

Amateur cameramen have produced some strong images of recent unrest, although network managers say much of their video is sub-standard and unusable.

Palestinian cameramen are

often too intimidated by troops to film close-up.

"On the first day of 'Eid al-Fitr' in April the army closed the entire Gaza Strip to the media. In clashes that day, troops shot dead three Palestinians and wounded nearly 150.

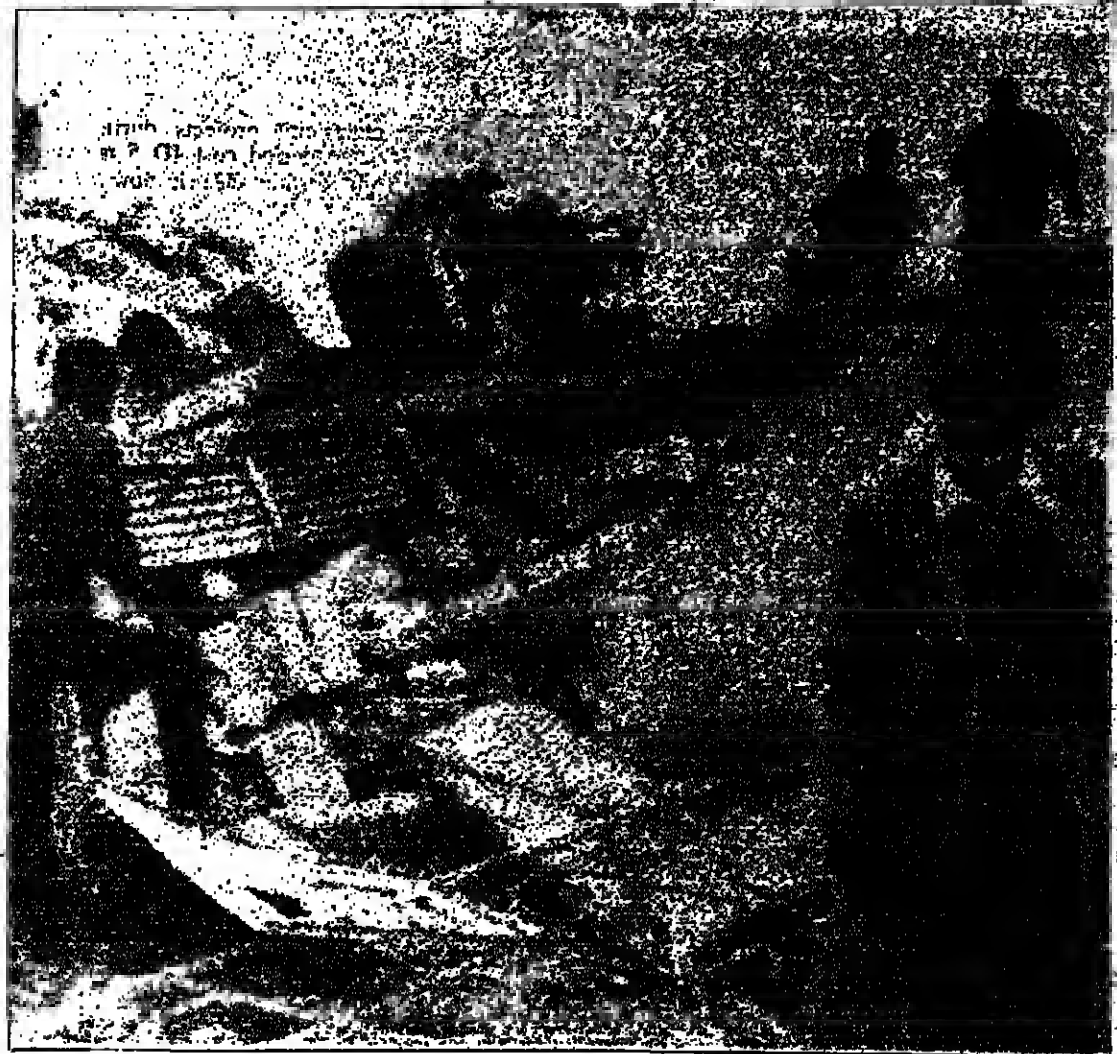
Despite the closure, several foreign networks received pictures from a Palestinian cameraman hidden in a house, who filmed activists stoning troops in a Gaza graveyard.

The networks have given cameras and basic training to Palestinians with good contacts, who had the advantage of speaking Arabic and knowing local residents suspicious of Israeli cameramen working for the foreign media.

Palestinians have grown wary of the foreign press after Israeli forces posed as journalists to enter villages and conduct arrests.

"The Shin Bet (secret police) has been successful in sowing distrust of anybody with a camera," the bureau chief said.

With some Israeli officials floating the idea of a prolonged closure of the occupied territories to crush the uprising, amateur Arab cameramen could become the main source of pictures for the foreign media.



Palestinians inspect the wreckage of a Palestinian home blown up by the Israeli occupation authorities as collective punishment for involvement in the uprising by one of the family members

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE  
15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programme  
15:50 ..... Local programme  
16:00 ..... News for the Deaf  
16:10 ..... Local programme  
16:20 ..... "Alph"  
16:30 ..... Health programme  
16:40 ..... Programme review  
16:50 ..... News in Arabic  
17:00 ..... Local series  
17:10 ..... Programme review  
17:20 ..... Arabic play  
17:30 ..... News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO  
18:00 ..... La Baby Sitter  
18:30 ..... La Chance Aus Chansons  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Tante  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... News in Arabic  
20:00 ..... Varieties  
20:30 ..... Bill Cosby Show  
21:10 ..... Beauty and the Beast  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film: "Trio homages a taine"

PRAYER TIMES  
05:53 ..... Fajr  
12:25 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
16:14 ..... Asr  
19:40 ..... Maghreb  
21:13 ..... Isha

CHURCHES  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swidish  
Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Teremana Church Tel. 623366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A slight rise in temperature will occur and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ..... 13 / 27  
Aqaba ..... 20 / 35  
Deserts ..... 13 / 31  
Jordan Valley ..... 18 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police ..... 97467  
Ambulance ..... 97467  
Complaints ..... 787111

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Yousef Smeirat ..... 821311  
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf ..... 663522  
Dr. Jamil Al Zay ..... 794149  
Dr. Ahmad Al Nalour ..... 659334  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Firdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055  
Naiourkh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649495  
Smeirat pharmacy ..... 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr ..... (—)  
Al Sharaa pharmacy ..... (985238)

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 199  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Fire Brigade ..... 821111, 657777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775211  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 628800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 787111

### TELEPHONE INFORMATION

(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 661101  
Radio Jordan ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power ..... 645381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 81381/332  
Khaldi Maternity J. Ann ..... 64281/6  
Al-Khalid Maternity J. Ann ..... 64241/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine Shmeirat ..... 6641714  
Shmeirat Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 661912  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 66727/9  
The Islamic, Abdal ..... 66617/37  
Al-Abil, Abdal ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajireen ..... 7778015  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 77511/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Gov. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)75555

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
09:25 ..... Dhabran (RJ)  
10:10 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
10:20 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:55 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Calcutta (RJ)  
17:15 ..... London (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Laraca (RJ)  
17:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
18:15 ..... Athens (RJ)  
18:30 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:45 ..... London, Geneva (RJ)  
19:10 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
20:40 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Rome (RJ)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
08:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Rome (RJ)  
12:10 ..... Athens (RJ)  
12:20 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Vienna, New York (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Frankfurt, London (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Rome, Paris (RJ)  
13:30 ..... Laraca (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
20:40 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Vienna, Miami (RJ)  
21:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)

### FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION  
Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 ..... Koran  
18:10 ..... Children programme  
18:15 ..... Religious programme  
18:20 ..... Friday's prayer  
18:30 ..... Religious programme  
18:40 ..... Sports programme  
18:50 ..... Religious seminar  
19:00 ..... News in Arabic  
19:10 ..... Salt and Pepper  
19:20 ..... Local programme  
19:30 ..... Religious programme  
19:40 ..... Feature film  
19:50 ..... Message from Oman  
20:00 ..... Local programme  
20:10 ..... Local programme  
20:20 ..... Programme review  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
20:40 ..... Local programme  
20:50 ..... Local programme  
21:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
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Anti-smoking campaigners Wednesday gather at the Professional Association Complex to observe non-smoking day (Petra photo)

## Jordan observes non-smoking day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan along with countries around the world Wednesday observed a non-smoking day as called for by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Ministry of Health in cooperation with the national committee for combating smoking organised a one-day event at the Professional Association complex including lectures, discussions on eliminating the habit of smoking and economic and social effects of smoking on the society as a whole, specially on pregnant women and diseases resulting from the habit.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas addressed the meeting, outlining the ministry's primary health care programmes. The ministry will shortly introduce a medical specialisation for doctors in primary health care for which the candidate should obtain a three-year

training course and pass a general examination to be set by the Jordan Medical Board, Malhas noted.

The minister also gave details about plans to develop health centres in the Kingdom by introducing sections to care for non-communicable diseases. The ministry is also working on a national health insurance scheme, enabling all citizens to get medical treatment and health care, Malhas noted.

The minister also dwelt in his speech on the question of medicine in Jordan and its import-export operations, availability in the markets and the role of the ministry in fixing prices. Malhas Tuesday evening made a television address to the public urging all citizens particularly women to give up the habit of smoking. During a press conference held on the eve of the event

the director of primary health care department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Suleiman Qubain said that smoking caused 30 per cent of all cancer cases, up to 90 per cent of all lung cancer cases, 40 per cent of heart diseases and 50 per cent of cardiac diseases in Jordan, according to the ministry's surveys.

The Health Ministry's anti-smoking campaign includes among other things, distribution of pamphlets, posters and booklets, broadcasting radio and television programmes and printing warnings in the press about the dangers of smoking.

The Health Ministry in March banned smoking in public places in implementation of a 1977 law on public health, and said that violators will be liable to strict punishment as stated under that law. No violations were reported so far.

## ICARDA names Amman regional centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Amman-based office operated by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) is to become a regional centre providing services to countries in the western Asian region in addition to Jordan, according to an announcement by the Council of Ministers here Wednesday. The announcement said that the Jordanian government agreed to arrangements made in this respect with the ICARDA office.

ICARDA was established in 1977 to undertake research and training relevant to the needs of developing countries and specifically for the agricultural systems of west Asia and North Africa.

Its general objective is to help increase agricultural productivity and food supplies, thus improving economic and social living standards.

The Cabinet, in its weekly session, also approved of recommendations put forth by the Civil

Service Commission on criteria to be adopted for the appointing civil servants in public offices during 1989. The recommendations call for a competition to determine the fitness of the candidate for the job.

The Cabinet also approved of a regulation, allowing the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) to take part in the process of transporting pilgrims to Mecca and Medina this year. It said that the PTC can assign up to 75 buses for this task and will be operating alongside vehicles owned by other private companies and in coordination with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs which organises the transportation and accommodation of pilgrims.

The Cabinet approved of the re-formation of the Armenian Orthodox board in Jordan. The board will be chaired by Bishop Vahan Topolian, the Cabinet said.



Minister of Planning Zaid Fariz (centre) and American Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth (second from left) Wednesday sign two agreements at the Ministry of Planning by which USAID grants Jordan \$4.9 million for health and private sector projects (Petra photo).

## U.S. grants Jordan \$4.9 million for health, private sector projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Wednesday added \$2.4 million to an initial \$5.5 million grant to assist service-oriented businesses in the private sector in Jordan. Dr. Zaid Fariz, minister of planning; Roscoe S. Suddarth, the U.S. ambassador to Jordan; and Dr. Richard Johnson, acting director of USAID signed the agreement.

Private Services Development (PSD) is working to strengthen services sector businesses and professionals in four targeted areas: computer, accounting and auditing, marketing and advertising, and industrial management and engineering services. The purpose of the project is to expand and improve service quality and delivery so that Jordanian services can compete favourably in regional and international markets as well as provide improved service delivery within the Kingdom.

It is worth mentioning that Dr. Issam Meri has recently been appointed executive director for PSD. Dr. Meri has worked as a professor of accounting, statistics, and finance in the United States, and as a consultant to Saudi Arabia in the development of the accounting profession.

Both sides signed another agreement Wednesday under which USAID is adding \$2.5 mil-

lion to a \$5 million Ministry of Health public health information project begun in 1988. The project will raise the awareness within the medical community and the general public that lengthening the interval between births to a minimum of 24 months will save lives.

The relationship between birth intervals and maternal and child health in Jordan is one of the most dramatic in the world. More than 45 per cent of all births in Jordan occur less than 24 months after an earlier birth. Infant mortality for Jordanian children who are products of such births is an exceedingly high 92 to 128 per 1,000 births. Infant mortality among these children is two to three times as high as children born between 24 and 36 months intervals (38 per 1,000) and three to four times the rate for those born at 36 to 60 months intervals (29 per 1,000).

A team of prominent interna-

tional scientists recently examined the infant mortality rate in eleven countries, including Jordan. Their research concluded that increasing the birth interval in Jordan to at least 24 months would result in a 40 per cent reduction in infant deaths and a 29 per cent reduction in maternal mortality. These estimates are consistent with other international data which show that women bearing children and children born at intervals of 24 months or less are exposed to twice the risk of mortality. It is clear that short birth intervals are lowering the level of maternal/child health in Jordan.

The goal of the project funded by USAID today, is to improve maternal and child health and to reduce both infant and maternal mortality by the increased practice of birth spacing. This will be accomplished through a programme which will make both prospective parents and health care providers more knowledgeable about the risks of short birth intervals and about the birth spacing products that are licensed and available in Jordan. The project will utilise expertise from Jordan's private sector to make birth spacing information, technology, and products more widely available through both public health clinics and private sector outlets in Jordan.

## Council of Amman region's development meets

## 21 industries born in '89

AMMAN (Petra) — The first four months of 1989 witnessed the birth of 21 new industries within the Amman region with an overall capital of JD 6.25 million, thus raising the total number of industries in this region to 159, according to the director of the department of industry at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The industrial sector in the Amman region contributes nearly 22 per cent of the total gross domestic product (GDP) and provides employment to nearly one quarter of the country's workforce, according to the official who spoke at a meeting called by the Amman development council to review achievements within the present 1986-1990 five-year national development plan. According to the department

director, the government's recent measures to encourage industry, has given incentive to investors who displayed greater interest in launching industrial ventures.

The director pointed to some difficulties that face the industry, citing marketing and the rising cost of input requirements.

Mr. Ali Dajani, an advisor to the Amman Chamber of Industry, told the meeting that Jordan's industrial sector contributed JD 270 million to the gross national product (GNP) which amounts to JD 1,440 million.

The council heard a report by the director of education in the Amman region who said that school buildings for which JD 14 million had been allocated, cost JD 17.5 million to carry out due to the high cost of appropriated

land for setting up buildings. School buildings are needed to do away with the existing two-shift schools in rented buildings, he said.

The health director in Amman governorate said that 14 health projects were carried out in the Amman region in the first quarter of 1989, executed at the cost of JD 4 million. He said that the electricity projects during the same period cost JD 5 million, and further electric power projects are underway.

The council meeting was also addressed by Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin who said that the country was facing difficulties due to the shortage of hard currency but the development process, he said will continue within the available means.

## Concorde trip — a boost for Jordan

By Rania Atallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has just begun to reap the fruit of its efforts over the past several years in promoting its tourism industry. The third flight of a Concorde jetliner into Jordan, carrying 100 up-market tourists on a four-day visit to the Kingdom, proved to be one of British Airways' "best" luxury flights around the world, according to Yan Knott, representative of Goodwood Travel, the British agency which arranged the trip.

"They (the tourists) did not know what to expect before they came... they were overwhelmed by what they saw," Knott told a press conference at Queen Alia International Airport marking the end of the Concorde trip to the Kingdom.

"This trip turned out to be one of the best flights according to client reactions at the end of the tour," Knott said. "No place beats this place."

While some may say this sounds too good to be true, Ministry of Tourism Director General Nasri Atallah believes the key word to explain it is "promotion."

"We are now reaping the fruit of our work over the past years," Atallah said at the press conference. "The reason is promotion."

The ministry has been operating with Jordan's national carrier, Royal Jordanian, in promoting tourism around the world under an agreement whereby RJ offices were designated as official representatives of the ministry abroad.

Despite the limitations imposed by its rather small JD 120,000 promotion budget for 1989, the ministry's expectations are that the country will still witness an additional influx of tourists in the coming 12 months, Atallah said.

Already, he says, there has been a 300 per cent increase in Italian tourists visiting Jordan in the first half of 1989 compared with the same period in 1988. Austrian tourists, increased by 150 per cent, and European tourists in general by 70 per cent. A total of 120,000 tourists from Europe visited Jordan last year.

Once-a-week chartered flights from Helsinki, Finland, to Aqaba started in 1987 and have now gone up to four flights a week. The next step, according to Atallah, is to have direct charter flights between Zurich and Aqaba starting in September this year.

This week's Concorde trip was the third since 1987. The Concorde made its first trip to Jordan on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday that year, and came back with an additional 100 up-market tourists in September of 1988; and the plan is, according to Atallah and Knott, to continue such trips in the future.

According to Munir Nassar, director of International Travel, the local travel agency that arranged the Concorde trip, each one of the 100 Concorde travellers would have spent in Jordan an average of £200 to 250 a day in terms of food, drinks and shopping.

The four-day trip, which took the tourists to Aqaba, Petra, Jerash and the Dead Sea, included a steam-train ride from Daba'a to Amman arranged by the Amman Marriott Hotel.

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## Jordan's history conference opens

LYON (J.T.) — A five-day international conference on the history and archaeology of Jordan was opened here Wednesday with the participation of delegates from 18 countries.

The conference was addressed by Princess Wijdan Ali who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to attend the conference which was set up in cooperation with the University of Lyon and the French Foreign Ministry.

Princess Wijdan reviewed in her speech Jordan's history and said that the country now abounds with treasures of archaeology and antiquities left behind from ancient cultures and civilisations.

Orientalists and historians will also discuss the country's archaeological treasures and antiquities through 68 major research works and 36 working papers dealing with the excavation work in the Kingdom, ancient sites and artefacts unearthed over the past years.

The Department of Antiquities, the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University together are presenting 14 research works to the conference which will review historical facts

from the Stone Age, the Iron Age and the Islamic era.

In addition three exhibitions featuring mosaics and artefacts will be opened during the conference depicting artefacts found at Tal Abu Hamed ancient site dating back to the early Bronze Age and until the 20th century.

The first conference on the history and archaeology of Jordan was held in England, the second in Amman and the third in West Germany.



Princess Wijdan Ali



Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin (second from right) Wednesday chairs a meeting of the Amman region's development at Amman's Chamber of Industry (Petra photo)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hasma Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- An exhibition by French artist "Olivier Mutillod" at the French Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of documents and photos depicting Jordan's history and development under His Majesty King Hussein's rule, at the Mafrag Youth Centre.
- A photography exhibition by Haitham Juweinat entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Reign" at the Salt Municipality Library.
- An exhibition of cartoons entitled "40 Years Federal Republic of Germany" at the Goethe Institute.
- An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.

### LECTURE

- A lecture on art by Mazen 'Asfour at Al Wasiti Art Gallery — 6:30 p.m.

### FILM

- A feature film entitled "Stage Door" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**DIALOGUE:** Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat has said that the ministry strives by all means to encourage constructive dialogue and open channels of contacts to solve the problems of the youth. Addressing a youth cultural festival held Wednesday in Sahab on Jordan's Independence Day, Khleifat reviewed the achievements of His Majesty King Hussein to attain Aab solidarity and noted the ministry's role in educating youths. He added that the ministry would present its services to the youths in Jordan and abroad (Petra).

**CROSS-COUNTRY RACE:** A total of 72 students from Karak Wednesday participated in a cross-country race on the occasion of Jordan's Independence Day. Maan Governorate will celebrate Tuesday this anniversary by holding festivals involving speeches, poems, and artistic activities (Petra).

**COURSES CONCLUDED:** A four-day training course on advanced computers and their applications, organised by Jordan University of Science and Technology, concluded Tuesday. The course included lectures and practical lessons on advanced computers, in addition to slide and film shows about the various applications of computer systems. At Yarmouk University another training course on the use of computers, held by the continuous learning and community service department in cooperation with the Jordan Engineers Association branch in Irbid, concluded also Tuesday and participants were awarded certificates by the department director Mohammad Khawaldeh (Petra).

**ENTERTAINMENT:** 600 guests were entertained at Jordan Inter-Continental by the local band Survivors, which included a large number of secretaries from the private and public sectors. Mr. Majeed Khalil, general manager, welcomed the guests in a speech addressed to all the invitees praising the role of secretaries. The celebrations were also attended by members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan and a number of company directors and press (J.T.).

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### Let's debate

THE QUESTION being debated nowadays in the press and among officials at the Ministry of Education and by school teachers over a five-day week for schools in Jordan is indeed worth the attention of the general public.

It is difficult to find a family in Jordan which would not be affected by a decision on this matter; and since questions of national interest like cutting on expenditure and consumption are involved, a careful consideration must precede any final decision.

The Ministry of Education has put forth the issue for public debate, and one would naturally expect to see some reaction, largely in the press and through debates on radio and television. Favourable comments appearing in the media have so far pointed to the advantages of adopting a new five-day school system, noting among other things cuts on water and electricity spending at hundreds of schools by tens of thousands of students, saving petrol currently spent on commuting students and teachers from and to schools and allowing an extra day off for both teachers and students to conduct personal business at government departments which otherwise would be impossible to do without interrupting normal teaching programmes. Opponents of the idea however, argue that such a system would require a re-organisation of school timetables, and would most certainly cause a degree of confusion to the normal life of working mothers, and create more difficulties at two-shift-a-day schools, with long delays in the evening classes.

Arguments put forth in the local press include a suggestion that various government departments should also join the five day week, thus offering parents the chance to plan for weekends with their children, overcome the problem of working mothers who leave children behind at home and the stage for boosting domestic tourism, enabling the public to visit tourist and archaeological sites in their country. If and when a five-day school week is established, children will no doubt be spending longer hours at school with probably a lunch break. This in turn opens the way for a surge in the catering business with the help of school canteens which in turn would create more jobs for the unemployed.

We are now at the debating stage, but should a decision on this issue appear difficult to take, then a survey could be useful to balance the pros and the cons on the one hand, and gather a wider margin of views on the other. As long as the public's interest is to be safeguarded, even a conference grouping officials, parents, students and teachers could be feasible.

Let us hope that no decision, is taken in this matter before all areas and avenues have been explored, and before the majority of the public is convinced of its benefits to the society as a whole.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday launched an attack on Israeli media which it said have been poisoning the atmosphere with a hostile propaganda campaign against Jordan. The paper said that the Israeli information services and the press have been trying to paint a negative picture about Jordan's national economy by misinterpreting the frank and open statement made by the Central Bank governor on television on the financial and monetary situation in the Kingdom. This Israeli campaign the paper said, is an evil one designed to shake the Jordanian people's confidence in their country and future. But, it said, that the citizens of Jordan are quite used to such tactics and firmly believe that this country remains a solid rock on which many intrigues, plots and other hostile actions break and get thwarted. The bank governor has shed light on the economic and monetary situation in the Kingdom, pointing to the fact that the Jordanian dinar could at any time fluctuate upwards or downwards in value depending on the basket of currencies to which it is linked, the paper noted. But, it added, this fact is being exploited by the Israeli media which misinterpreted the situation and cast doubt on Jordan's economic adaptation programme to serve its own evil interests.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackled the question of implementing resolutions passed by the Casablanca summit, pointing to the fact that a number of Arab leaders have been talking about the necessity for their implementation as soon as possible. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia considered the resolutions as a practical translation of the Arab leaders' ideas, while President Mubarak of Egypt and Algerian leaders have been dwelling on the same topic on which King Hassan of Morocco also commented on Tuesday, says Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer notes that since the resolutions were approved unanimously the Arab masses expect all their articles to be carried out in the letter and the spirit. The Arab masses expect one clear interpretation of these resolutions, and expect prompt implementation as they also expect to see their leaders meeting in six months' time from now to assess the results, the writer adds. He says that the coming few weeks serve as a touchstone for Arab leaders' resolve and credibility.

Al Dustour daily discussed a three-hour meeting chaired by King Hussein and attended by the representatives of the media information services in the Kingdom. The paper said that the King tackled all subjects of concern to the Jordanian citizens in general and dwelt on the methods that should be adopted in dealing with news in the press. King Hussein summed up the Casablanca summit meeting and its outcome, discussed Jordanian economic measures, touched on the situation in Lebanon and focused attention on the Palestine question and Jordan's on-going support for the Palestinians in their struggle for freedom, the paper noted. It said King Hussein breathed renewed hope in the hearts of the Jordanian people when he announced that Arab countries have responded favourably to Jordan's financial needs, and when he announced that parliamentary life will soon return to the Kingdom. The meeting with the King the paper said was a precious one for the press and marked a new era in the channels of communication between the leader and his people.

## Power struggle seen in China when Deng dies

By William Kazer  
Reuter

PEKING — The shake-up in the Peking leadership prompted by mass student protests over the past six weeks is only a foretaste of the race to succeed elderly strongman Deng Xiaoping, diplomats say.

"This is only round one," said a Western diplomat.

"The settlement, whatever it is, will be short-term, lasting only until Deng dies," said another.

Deng, China's 84-year-old senior leader and the architect of an economic reform programme begun in 1978, has for the moment thrown his considerable influence behind hardliners who have closed ranks under the banner of Premier Li Peng.

He has split with his former protege, Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, who has supported student protesters in their quest for greater freedom and political reform. Zhao has not been seen in public in 10 days and is expected to be accused of major errors or even of leading an anti-party clique.

"Much depends on how long Deng lives," said a diplomat.

But people who support him may not back his successors.

Deng is in reasonably good health for his age but he tires easily, rarely holding official meetings in the afternoon. He is often unsteady when forced to stand for long periods.

Li Peng, 60, a Soviet-trained engineer who appears to have benefitted most from the current

power struggle, will be manoeuvring to consolidate his power in whatever time Deng has left, they said.

He has not been close to Deng, who backed his rival in the past, but the two are believed to have forged an alliance of convenience.

"At the moment, Li needs Deng," said a diplomat. "And Deng has to rely on Li since he has broken with the leading reformer over political change. Deng may see Li as someone who may protect his economic reforms."

Party stalwarts like Chen Yun, the ailing 84-year-old who has favoured central economic planning, and Peng Zhen, 87, former chairman of China's parliament, have thrown their support behind Li.

"But the whole equation may soon change," said a diplomat. "They have all been united in their opposition to Zhao. But once he is formally removed, then they will be fighting among themselves."

Much depends on how many reformers are purged along with Zhao. The Communist Party chief has considerable support within the party and government as well as among the public in general.

Li Peng or anyone else will find it very difficult to run a government without the support of these people," said a diplomat.

The current power struggle has also shown China specialists that for all of the country's impressive reforms since 1978 one area has not changed, the lack of a smooth succession process.

## The Philippines: heading for unrest?

By Larry Jagan

MANILA — The Philippines could be heading for Latin American-style unrest as the country's leaders accept the austere terms imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Prices of essential goods will soar, warn critics, leading to food riots in the coming months on the scale of those recently experienced in Venezuela.

A storm of protest erupted when the Aquino administration announced last month the conditions of the IMF \$1.3 billion loan package which it had negotiated.

Under the agreement with the IMF, the Philippines government must reduce public spending by \$838 million and increase the prices of rice — the country's staple food — electricity, water and transport. All this is clearly set out in the "letter of intent" which the Philippines is obliged to sign before the loan is actually made available.

Solita Monsod, the Economic Planning Secretary, excluded by Aquino from the government's recent discussions with IMF officials, angrily attacked the conditions imposed by the IMF: they would produce a downturn in economic growth and accelerate inflation, she said, resulting in massive political unrest and public protest.

The government, however, argues that the agreement is an essential step to getting funds which, it is hoped, will help the Philippines land reform programme among other areas.

The government is seeking \$3 billion in new loans and expects

to get some \$10 billion through the proposed international Philippine Aid Plan. This mini-Marshall Plan (the name of the economic aid scheme which enabled Europe to recover from the ravages of World War II was first proposed by the USA over a year ago. It is expected to come into operation later this year now that the IMF has given the Aquino administration a "seal of good housekeeping".

With the IMF's acceptance that the Philippines economy is basically sound, officials are confident that donors, particularly the U.S. and Japan, will readily commit money to the multi-aid plan when they meet at the World Bank-sponsored pledging meeting in Tokyo next month.

"This will be our last chance," says Roberto Villanueva, who is in charge of the aid programme. "If we fail, the Philippines will be perennially rocked by instability well into the next century."

At the root of the country's problem is its enormous foreign debt, much of which was accumulated during the Marcos era and which currently totals around \$30 billion. According to Amado Mendoza, an economics lecturer at the University of the Philippines and an anti-debt campaigner, each Filipino currently owes \$500 to foreign lenders.

As if this burden was not enough, he says, the government is eager to deepen national indebtedness and even has the "gall" to claim that this is actually an answer to the country's development needs.

"Foreign debt — the poison! IMF — the disease," proclaimed

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a poster at a recent rally against debt in Manila.

"What the IMF is saying is that if we want to grow we must grow at the expense of the people," says Senator John Osmeña.

"It is the poor who will have to continue bearing the burden of our debt repayments," thunders Senator Alberto Romulo, who was President Aquino's first finance minister.

### Letter of intent

"Thirty million Filipinos — half the population — live in absolute poverty, and the numbers are growing annually," he continues. "By late last year the percentage of the population below the poverty line had risen to 66 per cent."

The "letter of intent", dubbed by many senators as the "letter of discontent", also sets out the Aquino government's economic policies and targets until 1992, the next presidential election year.

According to government projections, the economy will sustain a 6.5 per cent real annual growth until 1992. And although foreign debt will grow to nearly \$32 billion by then, the government

predicts that the debt, as a proportion of the gross domestic product, will fall from two-thirds to around a half, making it easier to pay.

Government officials, vehemently argue that refusing to pay its debt would bring the country into an international financial pariah and deter future foreign aid and investment which are seen as essential to economic growth. There is no alternative, they insist, to taking on new loans in order to service existing ones and to reinstate foreign confidence in the economy.

At a recent lunch with European businessmen in Manila, guests of the government — the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ramon Mitra, emphasised even the most ardent supporters of government policy when, with tears in his eyes, he pleaded with his audience to invest in the Philippines.

Many argue that the Philippines is caught in a debt trap which makes it increasingly difficult to break out of its poverty. They say that giving creditors 44 cents of every peso the government spends is actually preventing it from implementing constructive development policies.

— PANOS.

## Argentina reconsiders possibility of early handover of power

By Alberto Arebalos  
Reuter

BUENOS AIRES — The possibility has re-emerged of an early handover of power from Argentine President Raul Alfonsín to President-elect Carlos Menem despite Alfonsín's pledge to see out his term, which ends on Dec. 10.

"The bringing forward of the handover is still an issue — it is a step that should be taken as an answer to an emergency," said senator Eduardo Menem, a brother of the president-elect, two weeks after his Peronist movement trounced the ruling radicals.

Alfonsín, who last weekend offered to step down in favour of Menem but decided to stick out his full six-year term, could yet have to leave office early due to

the deepening economic crisis. Alfonsín on Sunday went on television to announce a package of emergency measures to tackle Argentina's worst ever economic crisis, including strict currency controls, higher taxes and cuts in public spending.

Monthly inflation is forecast at over 100 per cent for June, purchasing power of salaries has crumbled and there has been a wave of supermarket looting.

Alfonsín had promised the package after talks on an early handover of power to the Peronists broke down last week. Menem said on Sunday, however, that he was ready to assume the presidency if necessary.

"I don't want to talk about that issue. The handover will take place on Dec. 10, but we are ready to take office at any time," Menem told reporters in his

home province of La Rioja, 1,100 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires.

The mass-circulation daily Clarin's Sunday political column was particularly blunt about the political problem Argentina is suffering.

"A finished government, lacking political clout and credible reflexes, lives side by side with an elected government which demands time to adjust its coming to power," Clarin's political columnist Joaquin Morales Sola said.

"One's impotence and the other's needs are desperately protracting social conflict and economic collapse," he added.

With the perspective of a three-digit monthly inflation, an industrial crisis and a wave of supermarket looting, politicians and business leaders say a six-month transi-

tion period is too long.

The emergency economic package, whose content had been widely foreseen, did nothing to calm anxieties.

"What's needed here is a confidence shock, because this government lacks confidence both inside and outside the country," said Menem, who last week said he would take power early if all sectors backed him.

Menem's economic advisers are working on a programme they say will bring down inflation to 12 per cent per year in 18 months from the day he takes charge, given support from large local economic groups.

"Menem has the plan, the confidence and the backing, all of which the government lacks. What are we waiting for to have Menem in power?" one businessman said.

## 'Young Turk' will not solve problems

By Marcelo Cantelmi  
Reuter

BUENOS AIRES — The appointment of a 33-year-old legislator as Argentina's economy minister has been condemned by financial experts who say he will be unable to pull the country out of its chronic economic crisis.

The unexpected naming of Jesus Rodriguez, head of a lower house budget and treasury committee since 1985, also exposed the political isolation of President Raul Alfonsín, who after a two-day search had to settle for one of the "Young Turks" who helped him win the presidency in 1983.

"One cannot get out of hyperinflation without credibility. You overcome it with political and economic power and Rodriguez lacks it," Enrique Szewach, chief economist of the Latin American Economic Investigations Foundation, told Reuters.

"The situation has not changed one iota with Rodriguez's appointment and won't change soon," said Osvaldo Corvide, president of CAME, a small- and medium-sized business chamber which has said that retail sales fell 70 per cent during May.

The experts said they doubted whether Rodriguez would be able to rein in runaway inflation that private economists forecast will top 50 per cent during May alone.

"Alfonsín's move to put a man with no credibility within the markets at the helm of the economy ministry at this crucial time is a negative view of a solution," the influential business daily Ambio Financiero said.

Alfonsín had promised to impose an "economy of war" to contain prices after his offer to step down before his term ends on December 10 was turned down on Tuesday by president-elect Carlos Menem.

Alfonsín's Radical Party was beaten convincingly by opposition Peronists in the May 14 elections.

Since Tuesday Alfonsín looked within and outside his party for a candidate to stabilise the chaotic economy, which, coupled with political uncertainty over the long transition period, spurred interest

rates over 300 per cent a month and caused the Argentine currency, the austral, to lose half its value against the U.S. dollar in last week's trading.

His efforts, were fruitless because most of the men he consulted demanded a freer economy than the radicals were willing to back, party sources said.

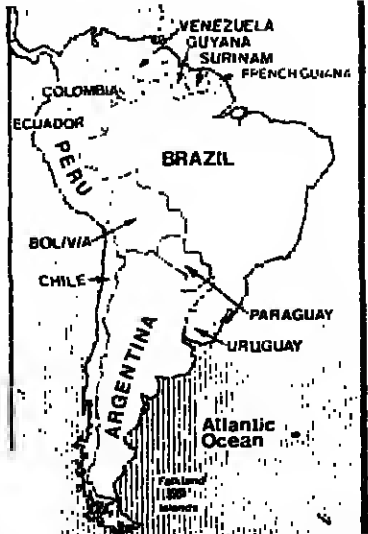
Alfonsín finally settled for a fellow Social Democrat with a following among the Radical Party youth and a reputation as a hard-nosed negotiator acknowledged by political opponents.

Government sources, who asked not to be identified, said the measures Rodriguez would

most probably carry out involved exchange rate controls to shore up the austral, tax increases and cuts in tax breaks and export incentives for industries.

A similar set of measures were rejected on Tuesday by Menem, who said Peronism would not endorse a programme which was "patently against the people."

Rodriguez is a staunch backer of former economy minister Juan Sourrouille and former treasury secretary Mario Brodersohn, who resigned on March 31 after the then-radical presidential candidate, Eduardo Angeloz, said they lacked the ability to handle Argentina's economic problems.



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Filling the air with fragrance soon  
Honeyuckles are all around  
Daisies, roses in the frontyard,  
Decorating the front of the house,  
Exceeding beauty to emphasise,  
The sight of that very known house to me,  
Children play all around,  
Watching carefree, the birds fly,  
Calling to their partners to follow,  
To make nests for their birdsies,  
The skies are so blue and wide,  
Which make you free of all your painstaking,  
So the ecstasy is every where,  
To breath, and whirl in the open air.*

Pauline Swells

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SEPT / SEPT

Voici pourquoi ils me tiennent... Le député israélien de gauche, Yossi Sarid, membre du Mouvement des droits civiques (Ratz) et favorable à la création d'un Etat palestinien indépendant, a provoqué un certain émoi en publiant la semaine dernière son "testament politique" dans les colonnes du journal Haaretz. Convaincu d'être sur la liste noire des extrémistes de droite d'ISRAEL, il a mis en garde les autorités de l'Etat hébreu contre tout laxisme à l'égard des "fanatiques et (...) hutes de toutes sortes".

Connu pour avoir été à l'origine, en 1984, du démantèlement d'un réseau terroriste juif anti-arabe opérant en Cisjordanie occupée, il s'est inquiété de leur remise en liberté après de courtes peines de prison en raison du soutien explicite que leur a apporté le Likoud et notamment Yitzhak Shamir. Dénonçant leur implication dans les récentes expéditions punitives de colons contre des villages palestiniens, le cri d'alarme de Yossi Sarid a été relayé dimanche au cours du Conseil des ministres par une véhémence accusation prononcée par le chef d'Etat-major israélien à l'encontre de ces pratiques. Les déshérences qui se font jour dans la classe politique face à l'engrenage de la violence dans les territoires occupés ont conduit lundi le président français, François Mitterrand à évoquer la "gravité des affrontements" et à appeler les dirigeants israéliens à la "lucidité".

La radicalisation du gouvernement de Tel-Aviv n'est sans doute pas non plus étrangère à la prudence diplomatique affichée quelques jours plus tôt par l'Angleterre, lors du voyage à Londres de M. Shamir. Le premier ministre israélien n'a en effet guère plus obtenu qu'un vague soutien à son plan de paix.

Changeant son fusil d'épaule, Yitzhak Shamir a lancé un appel aux pays arabes les invitant à "une table de négociations", à l'issue du SOMMET DE CASABLANCA, au cours duquel a été notamment acceptée la résolution 242 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU sur le droit à l'existence d'Israël. Selon les observateurs, la décision de la conférence arabe fournit surtout un solide appui à la stratégie pacifique de l'OLP. Tout en demandant la convocation d'une conférence internationale de paix sur le Proche-Orient, les chefs d'Etat de gouvernement arabes réunis au Maroc n'ont en effet admis le principe d'élections en Cisjordanie et à Gaza qu'après avoir obtenu le retrait total des forces de Tshah. Unanimes dans leur soutien à la cause palestinienne, ils n'ont pas réussi à trouver de solution efficace et originale pour sortir le Liban de l'ornière. Alors que certains, Irak en tête, prônaient la manière forte pour obtenir le retrait des forces "étrangères" syriennes, israéliennes et iraniennes du pays du Cèdre, le sommet s'est limité à la création d'un comité de trois dirigeants (les souverains marocain et saoudien, ainsi que le président algérien) chargé de trouver une solution politique au conflit. Satisfaisante pour Damas, cette décision ressemble à s'y méprendre à la mission confiée, en janvier dernier, à un comité ministériel de la Ligue arabe, qui avait abouti elle à une impasse totale. (D'après agences).

## EN BREF

**Retour au panier.** La banque centrale jordanienne (BCJ) a décidé lundi de rattacher le dinar à un panier de devises et d'abandonner la pratique, instituée il y a près d'un an, d'un taux quotidien obligatoire uniquement lié au dollar. Adoptée au cours de la première réunion de la BCJ depuis la nomination de son nouveau gouverneur, Mohammad Said Al-Nabulsi, cette mesure vise à renforcer les réserves en devises du Trésor qui avaient atteint en mars dernier leur niveau le plus bas (120 millions de dollars). Par ailleurs, les banques privées se sont vues imposer le dépôt systématique de 35% de leurs fonds en monnaies étrangères auprès de la BCJ. M. Nabulsi a également précisé lors d'une interview à la télévision nationale, que la Jordanie ne détenait plus que "des deux tiers de ses réserves en or, qui s'élevaient à un million d'onces". Le gouverneur de la banque centrale a enfin affirmé que la dette extérieure du royaume "s'élève à 8,1 milliards de dollars, sans compter les intérêts", et non entre 6 et 7 milliards, comme l'indiquaient les autorités jusqu'à présent.

**Indépendance.** Six mille élèves et étudiants des écoles publiques et privées ont participé lundi à la célébration du 43ème anniversaire de l'indépendance de la Jordanie, sur la pelouse du stade de la cité sportive d'Amman. En présence du roi Hussein, de la reine Noor et du prince héritier Hassan, près de deux mille jeunes ont notamment formé un tableau vivant représentant les quatre chefs d'Etat des pays membres du Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA). La fête nationale, qui devait intervenir le 25 mai, avait été reportée en raison du voyage du souverain hachémite à Casablanca pour le sommet arabe extraordinaire.

**Repos.** Le ministère de l'Education a engagé samedi dernier un débat public sur l'éventuelle augmentation du nombre de jours de congés hebdomadaires dans les écoles. Parents et enseignants ont été invités à se prononcer sur l'instauration, dès l'année prochaine, d'un week-end de deux jours (vendredi et samedi) dans les établissements publics et privés. Selon les autorités, la réforme du rythme scolaire se traduirait par un accroissement d'une demi-heure à quarante-cinq minutes des horaires de cours chaque semaine. Elle permettrait surtout aux instituteurs et professeurs de bénéficier d'une matinée durant laquelle les services publics sont ouverts, "sans réduction de salaire" promet-on au ministère.

**Deux siècles.** Le sultan Qabous d'Oman est arrivé mardi à Paris pour une visite officielle de quatre jours en France, la première du genre d'un souverain omanais depuis l'instauration des relations diplomatiques entre les deux pays, il y a deux cents ans. Le sultan Qabous s'est entretenu mardi après-midi avec François Mitterrand. Il a également été reçu, hier, par le maire de Paris, Jacques Chirac, puis par le premier ministre, Michel Rocard. Selon un quotidien des Emirats, cette visite pourrait notamment donner lieu à l'achat par Oman de Mirage 2 000 français.

**Sida.** Plus de 5 000 nouveaux cas de sida ont été enregistrés au mois de mai par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, portant à 151 191 le nombre total de malades signalés à l'OMS. Le tiers d'entre eux concerne le continent américain. L'institution des Nations-Unies estime néanmoins que le nombre réel des cas de sida dans le monde avoisine les 400 000, et qu'il se situera entre 5 et 10 millions dans dix ans.

**Bouygues en Libye.** Le groupe français Bouygues, numéro un mondial du bâtiment et des travaux publics, étudie actuellement, à la tête d'un consortium de sept entreprises européennes, un projet d'irrigation de la côte libyenne. Il s'agit, selon le président de la société, Francis Bouygues, d'acheminer de l'eau pompée à 800 kilomètres au sud de Tripoli par une énorme canalisation de plus de six mètres de diamètre. Coût de l'ouvrage: six milliards de dollars.

**Fausse piste.** Deux pilotes australiens ont été suspendus de leurs fonctions la semaine dernière pour avoir confondu... une autoroute avec la piste d'atterrissage de l'aéroport de Mackay, dans le nord du pays. Le 14 mai, ils avaient failli poser leur Boeing 737 sur la chaussée. Ce n'est qu'à une cinquantaine de mètres du sol qu'ils se sont aperçus de leur "erreur".

**Poker à l'as.** Trois cents policiers israéliens ont brutalement interrompu le week-end dernier les parties de poker et de roulette qui fleurissaient depuis plusieurs mois au large du port d'Eilat, sur la Mer Rouge. Interdits de séjour en Israël, les "fumeurs" avaient ingénieusement mis au point des casinos flottants, qui apparaissaient le soir et étaient l'ancrage hors des eaux territoriales. Une centaine d'entre eux ont été arrêtés au cours de cette opération coup de poing sur le tapis vert.

**Appelez-moi Myanmar.** La Birmanie a décidé de changer de nom et de s'appeler désormais Myanmar. Selon la presse officielle, cette modification vise à tenir compte des minorités ethniques qui cohabitent dans le pays avec la majorité birmane. Majorité qui ne devrait pas se sentir trop dépaycée: "Myanmar" est pratiquement synonyme de Birmanie dans leur langue. On appelle ça le changement dans la continuité.

De l'invention de l'hôpital à l'opération de la cataracte

# Quand l'Islam encourage la médecine arabe

Protégés, responsabilisés, valorisés, les médecins des premiers siècles de l'Islam ont étonnamment enrichi la pratique médicale. Dévots de la science, ils se sont distingués comme d'excellents chirurgiens et psychothérapeutes. La Renaissance européenne leur doit notamment le premier manuel d'ophtalmologie.

L'hôpital, tel que nous le concevons aujourd'hui, a plus de neuf cents ans. Services spécialisés, isolement des malades contagieux, enregistrement des patients, fourniture de vêtements spéciaux et garde des effets personnels jusqu'à la fin des traitements... Des le XIe siècle, ces principes "modernes" ont guidé la construction et le fonctionnement des établissements hospitaliers en Perse et en Irak.

Souvent dotés d'une école et d'une bibliothèque, ces centres de soins d'un genre nouveau, et qui fleurissent dans le monde musulman du VIIIe au XIIe siècles, ont souvent été à l'origine du développement prodigieux du nombre des praticiens. Protégés, encouragés et souvent financés par les notables, sinon les califes eux-mêmes, les étudiants et professionnels de la médecine musulmane ont ainsi bénéficié, dès le début du IXe siècle, des traductions des oeuvres grecques, perses, indiennes et syriaques.

Prolifique, la profession n'en était pas moins contrôlée. Tout médecin devait obtenir une licence avant d'exercer. En clair, il passait un examen, dont la tradi-

tion s'est maintenue avec plus ou moins de rigueur jusqu'à la fin du Moyen-Age. Le comportement du médecin durant sa carrière était lui aussi régi par des devoirs moraux inspirés de l'Islam. Le praticien se devait notamment de connaître la situation sociale, familiale du patient. Une attention, qui selon certains traités devait précéder tout diagnostic et prescription. Et ce dès le IXe siècle.

Ces notions morales tacites donnaient peu à peu naissance à un véritable code déontologique. Entre autres qualités, le médecin devait afficher modestie, vertu et charité. Il ne devait être ni avarice, ni méprisant, ni alcoolique... et se conduire "honnêtement" avec les femmes. Il était tenu au secret professionnel à l'instar du serment formulé par Hippocrate quatorze siècles plus tôt. Contrairement à la pratique contemporaine, un médecin ne devait en aucun cas pronostiquer la mort d'un patient, quelque soit ses certitudes. Harcelé par les multiples questions d'un malade ou de sa famille, il devait garder son calme et répondre avec clarté et précision. Les prérogatives du



Un prince, un médecin et son assistant, exprimant par leur réunion la parfaite osmose entre le pouvoir et le monde médical dans l'Islam. (Illustration d'un traité médical du XIIIe siècle).

malade étaient telles que s'il souhaitait consulter un autre praticien, le médecin de famille devait se soumettre, voire reconnaître ses torts si le second diagnostic contredisait le sien.

L'Islam a aussi encouragé la psychothérapie. Médecin et philosophe du Xe siècle, Al-Razi formule une distinction explicite entre maladies physiques et mentales. Il alla même jusqu'à recommander à ses collègues de recréer le cadre de vie du patient pour

favoriser la guérison. Au XIe siècle, Ibn Bultun inventa la musicothérapie: "C'est un soin de l'âme, comme les drogues soignent le corps malade", soutient-il.

Compétition et défis scientifiques obligent, les médecins se sont peu à peu spécialisés. Anatomie et chirurgie apparaissent alors comme les branches les plus développées. Des découvertes archéologiques attestent l'existence d'instruments chirurgicaux

des VIIIe siècle. Au début du XIe siècle, le chirurgien Abul Qasim Al-Zahrawi rédige plusieurs traités sur sa spécialité, dont certains seront traduits en latin puis en français et en anglais. Il dresse notamment une liste impressionnante de points de suture avec leurs propriétés spécifiques. Il met en garde contre les amputations au dessus du genou ou du coude. On lui doit encore l'identification des paralysies dues aux blessures de la

colonne vertébrale ainsi que la description de plus de 200 instruments chirurgicaux, dont nombre ont servi de modèles à ceux d'aujourd'hui.

## Minute par minute

Au XIIIe siècle, d'autres découvertes importantes enrichissent la médecine. Le Syrien Ibn Al Nafis, installé au Caire met en évidence la circulation sanguine dans les poumons, plus de 350 ans avant William Harvey. Son contemporain, Ibn Al-Quff, signe lui un texte remarquable, dans lequel il décrit le développement de l'embryon et révèle ses expérimentations pour prédire le sexe du fœtus. Al Razi, pour sa part fut sans doute l'un des médecins les plus originaux de tout le Moyen-Age. On lui doit plus de 50 ouvrages traitant de la thérapie, de la pharmacopée et de la chimie. C'est lui qui identifia et différencia définitivement les symptomatologies respectives de la rougeole et de la petite vérole.

Mais c'est sans doute dans le domaine du traitement des maladies de l'oeil que la médecine arabe fut la plus riche. Elle domina cette spécialité jusqu'à la fin du Moyen-Age. Hunayn écrit ainsi plus de dix traités d'ophtalmologie, considérés comme les premiers manuels systématiques d'anatomie de l'oeil, dotés d'une terminologie et de définitions organiques. Plus extraordinaire encore sont les travaux de l'Irakien Ammar Al-Mawasil. Il consacra notamment une étude à l'opération de la cataracte, indiquant les instruments chirurgicaux utilisés et décrivant l'intervention elle-même, minute par minute.

Alain Renon.

Sommet de l'OTAN sur les armes nucléaires tactiques

## Réduire et non supprimer

Surmontant des divisions qui risquaient de faire capoter leur neuvième sommet, les 16 pays de l'OTAN ont passé mardi à Bruxelles "un accord de principe" sur l'ouverture de négociations visant à réduire les armes nucléaires tactiques (SNF, moins de 500 mètres de portée).

Le compromis, qui fait de ce sommet un succès majeur pour l'OTAN, s'est dégagé dans la nuit de lundi à mardi après des heures de discussions acharnées entre les ministres des Affaires étrangères des 16 pays membres. L'accord stipule que l'objectif d'éventuelles négociations sera la réduction des SNF à un niveau inférieur au

niveau actuel des deux alliances, autrement dit l'OTAN et le Pacte de Varsovie. Les pourparlers ne pourront cependant commencer que lorsque les discussions de Vienne sur le désarmement conventionnel (FCE), ouvertes en mars, auront débouché sur un large accord et un "début d'application".

Le texte du "concept global de désarmement et de maîtrise des armements", qui englobe les paragraphes de l'accord sur les SNF, souligne que la sécurité de l'OTAN continue de dépendre des armes nucléaires. Le "concept global", qui lie les questions de sécurité et de désarmement, a donc été adopté mardi par les

chefs d'Etat et les gouvernements de l'Alliance Atlantique. Son approbation était suspendue à la réussite des discussions sur les SNF, noeud gordien que les alliés n'avaient pas réussi à trancher depuis deux ans.

Sur la question cruciale d'une élimination totale des SNF, la fameuse "troisième option zéro" n'a toujours pas obtenu l'assentiment des Britanniques, des Américains ni des Français. Le sujet n'est d'ailleurs même pas évoqué dans le texte du "concept global".

Les 16 pays ont conclu un accord de principe malgré une réserve de la Grande Bretagne sur le fait que "la troisième option zéro" n'ait pas été explicitement écartée. Outre la réduction des SNF, la résolution adoptée porte sur le successeur du lance fusée sol-sol de 110 mètres de portée, dont 88 sont déployées en Europe par l'OTAN.

La modernisation des SNF faisait également partie des sujets ultra-sensibles, ayant longtemps opposé les Etats-Unis et la RFA. La concrétisation de l'accord signé avant hier à Bruxelles dépend désormais des conclusions des négociations de Vienne sur le désarmement conventionnel. (D'après agences).

## Proverbes L'aphorisme universel

Toute langue a ses proverbes. Toujours elliptiques, souvent élogiques, ils filent dans chaque société la métaphore la plus accessible. Ces aphorismes populaires, fréquemment oraux avant de se retrouver couchés sur le papier, varient d'un pays à l'autre. Ou plutôt d'une culture à l'autre. Si l'imagerie change, le message, un tantinet philosophique, demeure universel. Voici six maximes arabes, avec leurs équivalents français, qui en témoignent.

C'est dans les plus petits flacons qu'on trouve les meilleurs parfums. (Plutôt la qualité que la quantité) Un grain de précaution vaut mieux qu'un nuage de médicaments. (Mieux vaut prévenir que guérir) Il est préférable d'avoir un oiseau dans la main que dix dans un arbre. (Un tiens vaut mieux que deux tu l'auras) L'oeil amoureux ne voit rien. (L'amour est aveugle) La patience est la clé de la sérénité. (Tout vient à point à qui sait attendre) Le repas d'un seul suffit pour deux. (Quand il y en a pour un, il y en a pour deux).

Nouveau restaurant à Amman

## Francophagie galopante



Un nouveau restaurant spécialisé dans la cuisine française a ouvert ses portes et fourneaux le 23 mai à Amman, près du sixième cercle. "The Three Horseshoes", comme son nom ne l'indique pas, propose notamment une fondue bourguignonne au prix de cinq dinars et demi par personne. On peut également, et plus volontiers pendant les grosses chaleurs, s'y faire servir un excellent "steak Diana" (on ne poivre) flambé au cognac pour deux dinars. La viande est tendre, la cuisson réussie et le service irréprochable... si ce n'est un peu long. Vous craqueriez peut-être pour un Chahlis ou un Saint-Emilion. A condition d'avoir garni le portefeuille: il vous en coûtera en effet entre onze et quatorze dinars. La décoration de la petite salle du restaurant (une trentaine de convertis) est plutôt chaleureuse, hésitant entre le chalais suisse et le relais de diligences. Sachez encore que le trio qui s'est lancé dans l'aventure est composé d'un chef cuisinier égyptien et de deux maîtres d'hôtel syrien et jordanien. Le premier a déjà une longue expérience de la cuisine française, dont il était chargé au Shiraton Hôtel du Caire. Le second a fait son apprentissage au Méridien et au Shams Palace de Damas. Le dernier a successivement travaillé au Razi à Irbid puis à Shmeisani, avant de relever le défi lancé par le propriétaire du lieu, Nabil Samir Biedas.

The Three Horseshoes, sixième cercle. Ouvert tous les jours de midi à minuit. Tél: 825 892. Prendre la direction de l'Amra en venant du rond-point, puis première à gauche après l'hôtel. Le restaurant se trouve sur la droite, juste après le premier carrefour.

## Mots croisés

Par Florence Mandel

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

### Verticalement.

A: félicitation. B: préposition; note. C: laides. D: éviter; forme d'être. E: prochain personnel; article indéfini; rivière du bassin parisien. F: habitantes de la Borne. G: aller en justice; reste à payer. H: composent le squelette; d'autant plus précieuse qu'elle est rare. I: choisi; pour les chiens. J: ancienne unité de mesure; fait la liaison.

### Horizontalement.

1: on y fait le café. 2: ils bordent les vêtements. 3: inclusif ou exclusif; carte maitresse. 4: grosses monnaies. 5: résister; lettre grecque. 6: infinitif; négation. 7: change de voir... ou de peau; pronom indéfini. 8: enlacer. 9: isolée. 10: essais; l'un des points cardinaux.

(Solution en bas de page)

## A L'AFFICHE

### CINEMA

Stage door, de Gregory La Cava, avec Lucille Ball, Katherine Hepburn et Ginger Rogers (noir et blanc). Une incursion dans les rêves des adolescentes d'un dortoir d'école. Dans la tradition hollywoodienne, qui veut que toutes les jeunes filles se voient un jour ou l'autre en haut de l'affiche.

Centre américain, jeudi 1er et dimanche 4 juin à 19h00 (en anglais).

Le grand chemin, de Jean-Loup Hubert, avec Antoine Hubert, Richard Bohringer et Anémone (1986). Pour Louis, petit parisien de 9 ans, les vacances de l'été 1959 s'annoncent mal. Confié par sa mère à un couple de villageois bretons, il fait brusquement l'apprentissage de la vie...

Centre culturel français, lundi 5 juin à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Femmes de personne, de Christopher Frank, avec Marthe Keller, Fanny Cottençon, Caroline Cellier, Jean-Louis Trintignant et Philippe Léotard (1986). La vie de trois jeunes femmes, qui travaillent dans le même centre de radiologie. Entre les aventures passagères de l'une, la vie rangée de la deuxième, la troisième affiche une fraîcheur sentimentale et romantique...

Centre culturel français, mercredi 7 juin à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Ciné-club. Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00.

Jeudi 1er: Rebecca; Picnic at Hanging Rock.

Rock: Seven Samurai; Citizen Kane; Brazil.

Vendredi 2: Monty Python and the holy grail; Space balls; Nine and a half weeks; Near dark; 2001, space odyssey.

Samedi 3: Barry Lindon; Night flight; Wedding in Galilee; Al zahra al-Barya (téléfilm jordanien); Unsettled land.

Dimanche 4: The naps; The fly; Salvador; Hamburger hill; Cry in the dark.

Lundi 5: Suddenly last summer; Still the sky; Rainman; Working girl; Mosquito coast.

Mardi 6: Witness; La grande illusion; The mummy; The accused; Empire of the sun.

Mercredi 7: Alamo; A quiet man; Cowboy; Mississippi burning; Top secret.

Films en version originale. Tél: 633981. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jerusalem puis première à gauche, 300 m.

## EXPOSITION

A la carte. Dans le cadre de la manifestation du 43ème anniversaire de l'indépendance, le Centre géographique royal présente au public une exposition de photographies aériennes, d'images satellite, de matériel de topographie ainsi que de cartes classiques et dessinées par ordinateur.

Centre culturel royal, du 4 au 6 juin (10h00-21h00).

## TELEVISION

Les enquêtes du commissaire Maigret, avec Jean Richard. Le célèbre fic français se retrouve obligé d'élucider un bico étrange assassinat auquel semble mêlé son ancien et non moins étrange collègue, l'inspecteur Malgracièreux.

JTV, vendredi 2 juin à 17h30.

## Solution des mots croisés

### Horizontalement.

1: cafétéria. 2: ourlets. 3: on; about. 4: pendules. 5: te; ph. 6: le; pas. 7: une; on; ét. 8: étreindre. 9: escuella. 10: tenés; est.

### Verticalement.

A: compliment. B: au; ut. C: fromages. D: éluder; est. E: te; un; Oise. F: italiennes. G: exier; di. H: os; perle; le élue; Pâques. I: toise, et.



# Can life be prolonged?

By David Holzman

CLIVE McCay essentially starved his rats. The nutritionist gave his laboratory rodents only 60 per cent of the calories they would have consumed if left to their own devices. The result: The maximum life span of the rats was increased by 80 per cent — what would be the equivalent of the oldest human living about 180 years.

McCay's ground-breaking experiments at Cornell University were published in 1935, and their results have been re-affirmed time and again. Humans do not live beyond the age of about 110. Those legends about the ancient yogurt eaters of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic are just that, legends, says Dr. Roy L. Walford, a leader in research on the aging process — and the laboratory rodents have their own maximum life span. Only McCay's dietary restriction has breached that maximum limit for rodents.

Why does food restriction prolong life? Gerontologists, those who study aging, agree that an answer might well solve the riddle of why humans age. But like the elderly themselves, the biology of aging has been one of the most neglected corners of the life sciences. "Dietary restriction was discovered in the early '30s, and over 50 years later we don't know how it works," says Richard G. Cutler of the National Institute on Aging.

"The field has only now progressed to the point where the testing of theories has become more important than describing observations, which is always a sign of the maturation of a scientific field," says Dr. Leonard Hayflick of the Centre for Gerontological Studies at the University for Florida. But, he adds pointedly, "None of the theories that have been put forth have been proven to the satisfaction of the majority."

Gerontology got moving in the mid-1970s. But even now, the budget of the National Institute on Aging represents only 2 per cent of spending by the National Institutes of Health, or little more than one tenth that of the National Cancer Institute.

Fundamental research on aging is "indeed neglected and relatively underfunded," says Dr. Robert N. Butler, chief of geriatrics at

New York City's Mount Sinai Hospital. "It is potentially the most economic research because instead of having to pick off one disease at a time we could be dealing with a fundamental change in the integrity of the entire biological system."

He offers the example of finding "ways to maintain the immune system in the face of aging." If these efforts were successful, "we would be gaining a foothold that would protect the body against a whole range of diseases."

There are more fundamental problems besides limited funds. The complexity of the aging process makes it a hard experimental nut to crack. For gerontologists, distinguishing between fundamental causes and the diseases that are secondary or tertiary to aging is difficult.

In fact, it is a little like peeling an onion. Many of the major theories about why we age — there are 10 by one gerontologist's count — are themselves probably a step or two removed from root causes, causes that are hidden from view by disease or degeneration.

## Causes for aging

To confuse matters more, most researchers now think there are a number of root causes of aging. In fact, the whole phenomenon may be largely misunderstood. "There may be no such thing as primary aging," says physiologist Edward J. Masoro Jr. of the University of Texas at San Antonio. "When you are dealing with a whole animal you are dealing with subtle and complex interactions. It doesn't take much derangement for (bad interactions) and then soon, secondary events occur that lead to what we call aging. A small but growing number of people feel that way."

Researchers consider food restriction to be one of the most exciting techniques for probing theories of aging. It not only prolongs the lives of experimental rodents, it keeps them physiologically young well past the time when their fully fed counterparts have become the codgers of the laboratory.

Old diet-restricted rodents have low cholesterol levels, low blood pressure and a lower incidence of farsightedness and cataracts. They can also run mazes like youngsters.

Similarly, food-restricted rats suffer less from the diseases of aging. Cancer and kidney disease develop later in life. Says Masoro: "Food restriction keeps rats young in so many ways that one has to suspect it has retarded the aging process at its most fundamental level."

"If we could understand how one intervention slows all these processes we would have a much better idea of what causes aging," says Dr. Evan C. Hadley, chief of the geriatrics branch at the National Institute of Aging.

Though food restriction dates back as theory to the early part of the century, it was not until 1977 that the late George Sacher of Oak Ridge National Laboratory asked how, precisely, food restriction was related to the length of life.

Sacher knew that the life span of cold-blooded animals such as fish could be tripled and quadrupled by restricting their diets and lowering their metabolic rates, which is done by lowering water temperature.

Examining the literature, Sacher found that in laboratory rodents, each gram of tissue seemed to have a lifetime calorie quota. This was something like saying that a car would expire once it had burned, say, 2 gallons of gas for every pound it weighed. The calorie quota was identical in different rodents regardless of diet.

From this, Sacher offered the theory that food restriction prolonged life and slowed aging by increasing metabolic efficiency, just as one might expect frequent tune-ups to keep a car running more efficiently and make it last longer.

The notion that lower metabolic rate meant longer life implied that burning energy somehow results in damage to the body. In 1981, Denham Harman of the University of Nebraska medical school explained how this might happen when he linked metabolic rate to his free-radical theory of aging.

The free-radical theory holds that aging is the result of accumulated damage to crucial molecules, membranes and cells of the body. The damage is most severe in the DNA, the blueprint molecules of life.

The cause of the damage is thought to be free radicals, which Walford, of the University

of California at Los Angeles, calls "fragments of molecules that have become unstuck." As such, they are so unstable that they tend to react with the first molecule they encounter, damaging or destroying it in the process.

Aging, the theory holds, is caused by the gradual accumulation of such damage. Food restriction made the rats burn energy more efficiently, said Harman, and that meant a proportional reduction in the damage from cellular combustion.

But Sacher's restriction retards aging by reducing metabolic rate is controversial. Says Masoro: "Everyone wanted to believe it, because it made such intuitive sense, but there was something fundamentally wrong."

## Contradictions

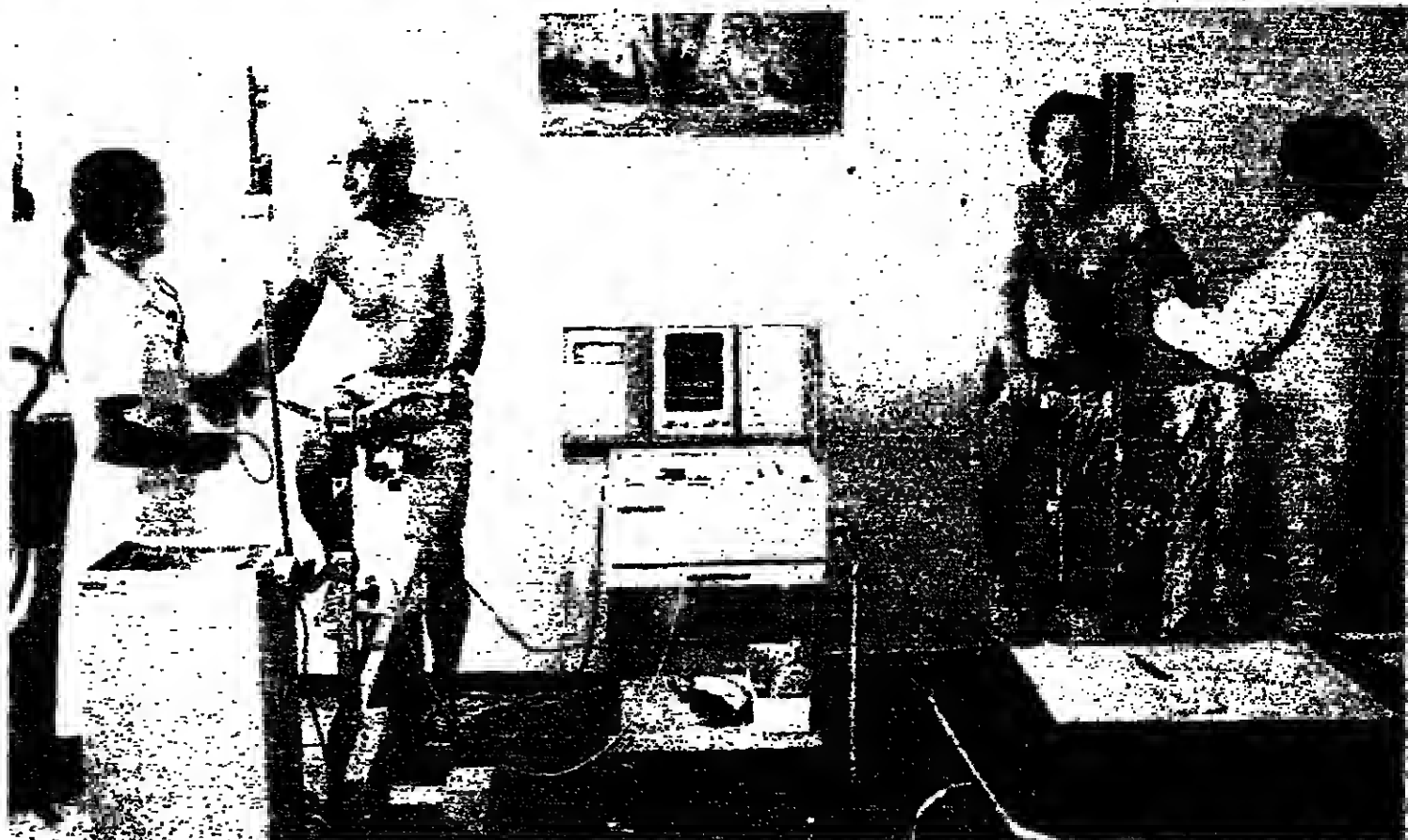
Measuring metabolic rate in two ways, Masoro came up with results that contradicted Sacher's findings. Restricted animals burned energy as intensely as their fully fed counterparts, Masoro found. Also, since they lived much longer, their tissues used from 25 per cent to 45 per cent more calories over a lifetime.

This suggested that food restriction lowered the damage from metabolism. Masoro suggests that, like certain antimicrobial devices, food restriction alters the chemistry of cellular combustion, reducing the free-radical load in the process.

Walford insists that "metabolic rate or something like that could be very important. The thing that has the effect on life span is lower energy intake." Although food-restricted animals are quite skinny, Walford points out that their brains do not shrink and "could be getting by with fewer calories per gram per day." But right now, he admits, he has no evidence to contradict Masoro.

Complicating the damage theory further, food restriction appears to help the body defend itself against free radicals. Two mechanisms protect against molecular damage. One involves free-radical scavengers — chemicals the body produces that neutralise free radicals the way catalytic converters neutralise certain automotive pollutants. The second mechanism is DNA repair. Both systems seem to work more efficiently in food-restricted animals.

In fact, middle-aged food-res-



"Walford is so confident food restriction affects life span for all species, all the way to the highest of the primates, that he has restricted his own diet for about three years. The regime

has just been published in a how-to book that outlines the scientific basis for betting that food restriction will extend human life span. It's called 'The 120-Year Diet'."

tricted rats outproduce their fully fed counterparts in two of the free-radical scavengers, reports Arlan C. Richardson, an Illinois State University chemist. "If you believe the free-radical theory of aging, maybe somehow dietary restriction causes these two genes to be turned on higher."

Nonetheless, no one has proved the free-radical theory. Experiments in which free-radical scavengers have been fed to rodents have failed to extend maximum life spans. But advocates of the theory defend it from this attack, claiming that the free-radical scavengers may have never reached the cellular combustion chambers, called the mitochondria, where the free radicals probably do the most damage.

Food restriction also has remarkable effects on the immune system. In one set of experiments, white blood cells that Walford and Richard H. Weindruch, also of UCLA, took from 16-month-old food-restricted mice attacked foreign materials with the vigor of those of fully fed mice 6 to 8 months old.

## Immune systems

The immune systems of food-restricted animals seem to func-

tion more efficiently. Walford and Weindruch found that restricted animals maintain smaller reserves of so-called natural killer cells but that these cells multiply nearly 50 per cent faster to meet attack from invading microbes. As with the free-radical theory, however, no one has proved that the decline of the immune system causes aging.

In yet another area of investigation, Dr. Robert A. Good of All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla., has found that food restriction increases the life span of cells lining the gut, the spleen and the thymus gland, a kungpin of the immune system. (The gut lining is replaced normally every few days.) In related investigations, Good has found that food restriction alters the levels of many different chemicals produced in the body.

Clearly, the influence of food restriction is pervasive. But aside from theories about free-radicals generated by cellular combustion, there is no firm speculation as to how food restriction may influence so many processes.

An answer might be found in the hormones. Some scientists believe that the pace of aging, like development and maturation, might be genetically pro-

David Holzman writes for *Insight*, a U.S. weekly magazine.

# "From the first greeting it was a first class flight.."



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# The 'monster of the Green Lagoon'

By Josephina Dominguez

A nuclear power plant has officially opened amid storms of protests from environmentalists who claim that it is dangerous.

VERACRUZ, Mexico — No grand inauguration proclaimed the opening of Laguna Verde nuclear plant last month. In an atmosphere of near-secrecy, Mexico's first nuclear power plant went on line, despite allegations that it poses serious safety hazards.

Laguna Verde (Green Lagoon) is 290 kilometres east of Mexico City, on the Gulf of Mexico near the state capital of Veracruz. The \$3.5 billion project has been in the pipeline for 20 years but it was only last October that the first "hot tests" began when one of the plant's two 654-megawatt reactors was loaded with enriched uranium fuel.

Controversy has characterised the 20-year-debate over Laguna Verde. Scientists feel the plant is unsafe and that contingency evacuation plans in the event of an accident are totally insufficient.

On the very first day of operation, according to the Mexico City News (the country's only daily English paper) the government conceded that there were several accidents "of no consequence": four workers were exposed to small amounts of radiation, described by a plant official as "not serious."

The plant's general director, Rafael Fernandez de la Garza, stated categorically, "whether

accidents occur or not, we will continue with the nuclear project."

Many opponents accuse the government of timing the start-up of the plant to attract the least public interest. Homero Aridjis, of the environmentally-active Grupo de los Cien (Group of 100) composed of artists, writers and intellectuals, says that CFE—the Federal Electric Commission, which is in charge of the plant's operations—hurried the opening day forward so that it would not coincide with the third anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster April 26, 1989 which would have suggested an uncomfortable parallel.

Press reports on Laguna Verde are relatively scarce, with environmental NGOs claiming that government officials keep a tight lid on information. Even that information does not get wide distribution: a newspaper costs 35 U.S. cents—one hour's work for the average construction worker—and adult illiteracy is high.

Of the few who have kept informed about Laguna Verde, many have formed anti-nuclear coalitions to try to stop the plant's operation, at least until all the safety conditions have been met. As an economic alternative they have proposed that the plant be converted to a gas-fuelled facility.

The government's stated reason for building Laguna Verde is to provide electric power for the region, and meet the needs of more than 300,000 people.

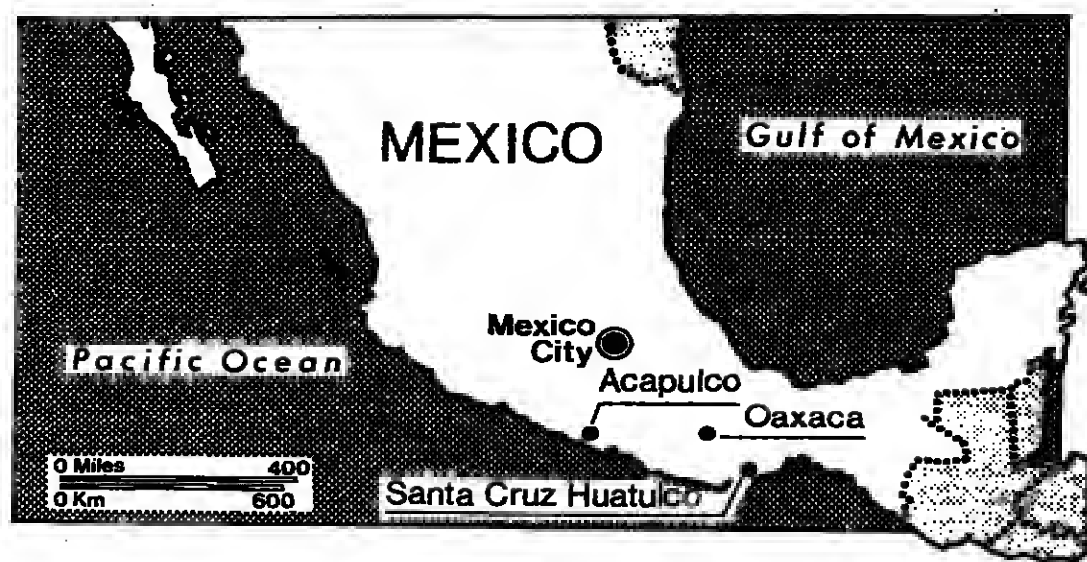
But critics charge that even at full capacity, the power plant will service a very small percentage of the population.

One of these, Marco Antonio Martinez Negrete, a physics professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), claims that less than 3 per cent of Mexico's electricity needs will be met, even at full capacity.

He has helped form a National Co-ordinating Body Against Laguna Verde (CONCLAVE)—a coalition of anti-nuclear groups. Just two days before the mid-April start-up, CONCLAVE members were barred from entering the Chamber of Deputies to present their case against the nuclear-electric power plant.

Two weeks later on April 30 an estimated 6,000 people—according to La Jornada (one of Mexico's leading daily papers) attended a protest march against the opening of the plant, at which many celebrities and environmental activists were present.

At another peaceful environmental gathering at the end of April, the first "Earth Day" celebration in Mexico City, Mar-



tiniz was among a handful collecting signatures for a petition asking that plant operations be halted.

He says the petition symbolises the right of the Mexican people to determine their country's energy policy. And he maintains that, apart from accidents, nuclear power plants emit enough radiation under normal working conditions over a period of years to cause sickness and death.

Official supporters of the project deny this however, saying that the plant meets all safety standards and that waste will be efficiently reprocessed.

One of CONCLAVE's information booklets on nuclear energy and Laguna Verde entitled "No a Laguna Verde" has listed their allegations of the plant's hazards.

They maintain that Laguna Verde uses General Electric's Mark II model which scientists have found defective: the U.S. government has stated that the

probability of a serious accident before the year 2000 at a plant designed by General Electric could be as high as 90 per cent. Critics feel the government should sue General Electric for selling a defective design.

They also say that Veracruz plant has been poorly constructed as, in 1980, the reactor's vessel was struck and subsequently damaged. The concrete container was merely patched.

Furthermore they maintain that it is built on a geological fault line and is within 8 kilometres of an active volcano called El Abra.

Finally, they say, official analysis of more than 30,000 failures and nuclear accidents in the U.S. has demonstrated that human error cannot be avoided. Human error was a large factor in the two major accidents of Chernobyl (Kiev, USSR) and Three Mile Island (Pennsylvania, USA).

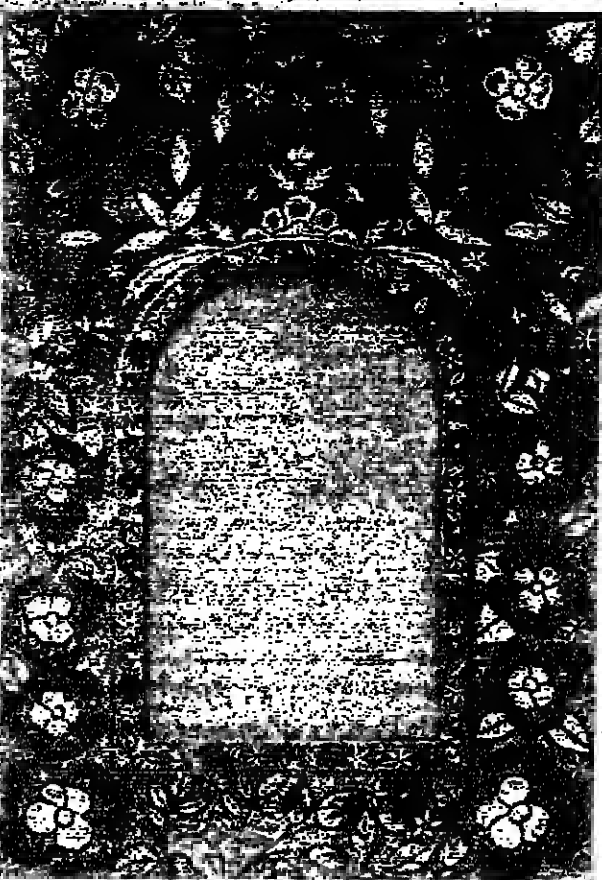
If an explosion at Laguna Verde created the same radius of radioactivity as Chernobyl, they

say, it would reach Houston in the USA, and to the south, Managua in Nicaragua. Scientists predict that an explosion at Laguna Verde would span a much larger zone than that.

In addition, according to widespread press reports, it appears that the government plans to build at least eight more such plants.

Guillermo Guerrero Villalobos, director of the Federal Electric Commission (CFE), has admitted that there hasn't been enough public information regarding the Laguna Verde plant. One step to remedy this was the recent creation of the Laguna Verde Nuclear-electric Information Centre, to answer the public's questions and concerns.

However, it is doubtful that he would have had a ready reply when a child living near Laguna Verde asked her mother: "Where are we going to live if something happens here?" — PANOS.



An example of Fawzi art

## Focus on People

### Being creative

By Mariam M. Shahin

AT A time in life when most men and women bow out of the ranks of the official workforce, take up travelling — if within reach — or, more often than not, just sit at home getting on other people's nerves, some are lucky enough to find a new "life of productivity." Fawzi Taj Farouki is one of such lucky few. She talks about it to Focus on People this week.

AMMAN is the family retirement home for Mrs. Farouki, who, being married to a U.N. official, has had the chance to travel to many exotic places around the globe. She agrees that it was a little difficult in the beginning since she had never actually lived in Jordan and thus had very few friends in town.

Consequently, the Faroukis had a lot of free time to their hands. After an initial attempt at opening and running a small boutique failed, Farouki — quite by chance, by her own admission — tried her hand at painting along the styles of the mosaic art she had seen while on a visit to Madaba.

Using water colours borrowed from her grandchildren's schoolbook, Farouki started experimenting. Eventually she bought oil paints and plunged headlong into her hobby and project. Her painting was not done in the conventional style of brushstrokes but by simply making dots into geometric designs or images from nature. "I wanted to make something decorative for my home," she explained. "I thought of making a design around a mirror to hang at the entrance of my house. So I began painting on an engraved piece of wood, whose centrepiece would be a mirror."

Farouki found it amusing when, halfway through her work, a casual visitor asked whether it was for sale. But she agreed to sell it; it was not long before she started getting calls from people who wanted her "painted mirrors."

"It was hilarious at first. I burst out laughing," recalls the artist. "Of course, I was very flattered and pleased, but I had not expected such a reaction. I told the people to wait a while before I could produce some more."

That was in 1983. Since then, Farouki has held exhibitions in Amman, Cairo, Abu Dhabi and will exhibit in the United States this November. She has sold over 2000 pieces of art.

After producing a series of "mirror paintings" and paintings without mirrors, dubbed "Fawzi" art — a combination of "Fawzi" and "mosaics" — she also began to experiment in another line of art.

She began carving on a piece of firewood. Since then she has created wall carvings and decorative table legs as well as other pieces of functional art.

"I started getting into art as art," she says. "I began painting with brushstrokes as well as decorated wood with brass. But my clients told me 'don't, just continue doing the Fawzi' because they are unique, nobody has done them and no one is doing them."

This is your art. So I continued, although sometimes people would ask me for certain colour combinations to suit their homes, but I only make something if I feel like it. I can't work on command. I create colour combinations and designs as I go along. Sometimes they reflect nature and often my imagination. I often dream certain images and the next day I try to reproduce them through my art."

Farouki begins working during the late afternoon and often ends up working until the wee hours of the morning. She says: "I don't need a lot of sleep. During the morning hours I receive friends, family, clients, and whoever wants to see me. I entertain at lunch and accept lunch invitations but dinner is out of the question for social gatherings. I must keep my work schedule."

Farouki's husband, Said, encourages her. "My greatest supporter is my husband," Farouki says beaming. "He takes care of everything for me. I just paint. He buys the colours, the wood and the mirrors and takes care of all arrangements outside of the house."

The Faroukis live in a cool, airy house whose outside wall are covered in green vegetation. Inside the house and in the big garden, flowers and plants collected from all over the world grow in abundance.

Many of the plant seeds and Farouki's imaginative designs in her art work have their origins in the many places that the Faroukis visited in the over 30 years that Said Farouki worked for the United Nations. "We saw the world," says Mrs. Farouki. Born in Munich, West Germany, and raised in Jerusalem and Baghdad, Farouki's travels have enriched her imagination and expanded her horizon.

Each piece of carving is an original and impossible to copy, since it is hand carved. The scenery she often projects in her carvings originate from scenes in remote villages in countries as diverse as Jordan, Turkey and the Far East. Although Farouki does not produce wood carvings as frequently as she does "Fawzi" art, they are very much in demand.

"Carving is very taxing on my health," she says. Recently she began diversifying the use of her Fawzi designs. Some designs have been used as table tops while others serve as wall panels and partition panels.

Since her work takes up most of her energy, she is assisted by a small army of live-in helpers who make her "life very pleasant". "They take care of my husband, my mother and myself. They make sure I don't get sick and that I'm comfortable. When I sell a piece of my art, they receive a certain percentage."

Two or three times a year the Faroukis travel abroad to relax and visit their two sons, who live in Cairo and London respectively.

At a time when so many people, young and old are bored sitting in front of their television sets, the whole Farouki household is busy preparing for the next exhibition of Fawzi art in Washington, D.C., this November.

## The taming of computers

By Helene Bourdon

NEW YORK — Mark Wilson's surrealistic drawings and his skillful use of computers have won him international acclaim.

Don't expect to find him where the lights are bright and the air polluted by car exhausts; he hides his computers and plotters (sophisticated printers) in a tree-shaded New England village, where he and his wife, a school teacher, are raising three sons.

Wilson started working with computers in 1980, after leaving art school, where he had used canvas and brushes. He was among the first artists to tap the creative potential of computers. Now interest in computer art is a worldwide phenomenon, he says.

It's still an expensive hobby, but compared to what a sculptor pays for his material, or a photographer for his equipment, his total investment of about \$10,000 seems low.

In the ancient barn which is his studio he has three plotters, including one lent to him by IBM, and several desk top computers. As we talked, the IBM plotter linked to a small PC was filling out the reds in a 32-inch by 32-inch abstract drawing, which actually represented one small part of a pattern visible on the screen of the computer.

Starting from basic patterns, "I am constructing things," says Wilson. "I do it piece by piece... I do something, react to it and then do something else... I don't see the whole thing on the screen; I am not completely sure what this drawing will look like. In that

regard I am working in a very conventional way... If I want to put something up in this corner of the paper I have to tell the machine to put it at such and such coordinates — minus 15,500 opposed to 13,500 — sometimes I will give a number and it (plotter) puts something that I had not anticipated; it's one of the things that have fascinated me. It (computer/plotter) does produce unexpected results... Artists are always excited by the possibility of seeing something that they could not see before or that they do not expect to happen."

In 1985 Wilson compiled a book titled "Drawing with Computers" which details ways of writing personalised computer graphics programmes and surveys affordable equipment. "As in photography, it takes a lot of practice," he warns, but "once you get the software to work, and once you get the recipe right, you don't have to pay any attention to the machine."

"The plotter has some intelligence built into it, but the computer does 99 per cent of the work," Wilson explains; besides doing the actual drawing in the requested colours — and thickness of ink — his plotter can rotate images, for example, but Wilson uses mostly his software to rotate, transform and project in three-dimensional space the mathematically constructed images he stares in his computer.

"It's a very simple method, very useful," he says. It allows him to make four or five drawings a week, on average. "Sometimes I get sort of bored with doing the

same kind of things, but as the years have gone by, I discovered that you can develop all sort of variations... it (computer system) can be tremendously versatile and powerful in terms of manipulating these visual elements (introduced in the computer)."

"I am not affiliated with any company or university... so I have had to make do with relatively basic equipment... I have always thought that this is one of the great virtues of the stuff, that even using low-cost computers you can do terrific things."

In some ways computer art is completely contrary to what tra-

ditional artists do because they work in a very intuitive way, Wilson admits. 100 years from now some artists will still be using paints and brushes, he adds, "but computers are going to become increasingly important in terms of the way artists use them."

One problem now is that "there is a lot of so-called computer art that is in a sense imitative of other styles, older styles of art making, and it's not really clear what the future will bring," Wilson notes. "It's unclear if there will be an art specifically based on computers." — (World News Link).



## FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNEIB

### FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Bashir Mishri Baraish	Adham	Owner	Salamih	56
2- Mohammad A. El Aziz	Mabrouk	Owner	Ahmad	56
3- Mohammed Abdullah	M. Fouad	Owner	Eldham	56
4- Zaid Farad Tamim	Hayran	Owner	R. Amarah	56
5- Mohammed Khalil	Shakheh	Owner		54.5
6- Meshir Farhat Fakh	Shahran	Owner	Ibrahim	54.5
7- Farhan Fakh Qudhi	Nadwah	Owner		54.5
8- Ahmad Salim Khawath	Saad Eied	Owner	Rasheed	53
9- Rebie Adnan A. Hassan	J. Mshakar	Owner	Hary	51.5
10- Yousef F. H. H. Maney	D. Khalil	Owner	Yousef	51.5
11- Muhammad Salim Nabolsy	Sabah	Owner		51.5
12- Saddam El Fakara	A. Saddam	Owner		51.5
13- Asy El Bah-heet	Azzem	Owner		50

### SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Azmy Amaot	Fahdh	Owner	Saad	54.5
2- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Fozan	Owner	Abbas	53
3- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Dahis	Owner	Abbas	53
4- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Hamdanih	Owner	Ibrahim	48.5
5- Nimir El Hmoud	Bintshams	Owner	Ibrahim	51.5
6- Nimir El Hmoud	El Khashm	Owner	Ibrahim	51.5
7- Oudil Allah Haman	H. Marji	Owner	Yousef	51.5

### THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Ahmad Oudhi Mjaly	Saly	Owner	Anwar	56
2- Alay Abdallah Ashvan	M. Aly	Owner	Aly	56
3- Fayad Assal	Dona	Owner	Suliman	54.6
4- Yama Mohammad Marey	W. Hecmi	Owner	Yousef	51.5
5- Salaminh Manah	M. Assal	Owner	Ibrahim	51.5
6- Shihadi Aly Fakara	F. Rady	Owner	Hary	51.5
7- Mohammad Aly Saad	Shimah	Owner		48.5

### FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Ghalib Haddadin	Waheed	Owner	Mostafa	56
2- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Mashallah	Owner	Abbas	54.5
3- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Sid Elkhail	Owner	Abbas	53
4- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Kareem	Owner	Abbas	53
5- Kamal Wasil Beharat	Mashael	Owner	Rasheed	51.5
6- Najla Wasil Beharat	M. Dina	Owner	Khairidin	51.5
7- Nimir El Hmoud	Berary	Owner	Ibrahim	51.5
8- Nimir El Hmoud	El Hasna	Owner	Hary	51.5

### FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR SECOND & THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Aly Fareed El Saad	Sary	Khairidin	Rasheed	60
2- Aly Fareed El Saad	J. El Saad	Khairidin		56
3- Nimir El Hmoud	Talak	Ibrahim		60
4- Nimir El Hmoud	Hattab	Ibrahim	Hary	60
5- Kamal Wasil Beharat	Elshahy	Khairidin	Mostafa	60
6- Kamal Wasil Beharat	H. Elroman	Khairidin	Ibrahim	56
7- Najla Wasil Beharat	Nasmain	Khairidin		53

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**INNER SPACE**



Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

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**LIAR'S MOON**

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.



# Foreigners invest \$65 billion in United States during 1988

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign investors spent \$65 billion to acquire or establish U.S. businesses last year, up sharply from the \$40.3 billion spent in 1987, the government reported Tuesday.

The U.S. Commerce Department attributed the 61.3 per cent increase in spending last year over the 1987 level to a surge in large transactions, with the number of investments worth \$1 billion doubling from six to 12 in 1988.

Those 12 investments accounted for 80 per cent of the increase in spending last year. The \$65 billion in outlays included \$60 billion spent to acquire existing U.S. businesses and \$5 billion to establish new operations. Some \$16.4 billion of the money was spent by foreign direct investors, while \$48.6 billion was spent by U.S. affiliates of foreign companies.

The department said several factors have made foreign investment in the United States attractive in recent years, including strong U.S. economic growth which made target companies potentially more profitable, a

large consumer market, political stability and a strong technology. In addition, the wave of corporate restructuring in the United States provided foreigners with investment opportunities and the decline of the dollar against foreign currencies probably led some firms to shift operations to the United States, the department said.

Concern about foreign ownership of U.S. assets in the United States has prompted moves in Congress to require greater disclosure about foreign investors and their purchases.

The Commerce Department said the biggest portion of the outlays by foreign investors last year for acquisitions and new businesses was the \$31.6 billion spent in manufacturing, followed by \$8 billion in retail trade and \$5.8 billion in insurance.

Britain was the biggest spender, at \$21.5 billion after spend-

ing \$15.1 billion in 1987. Japanese investors spent \$14.2 billion, double their 1987 total while Canada spent \$10.4 billion. Canadian investments in 1987 amounted only to \$1.1 billion.

U.S. companies top investors in Japan

By contrast, U.S. companies were the biggest investors in Japan, while the United States was the top destination for Japanese investment overseas last year, finance ministry officials in Japan said Wednesday.

Investment by foreign companies in Japan jumped sharply last year, and foreign investment by Japanese companies also hit a record high, they said.

Despite the high yen, which makes investing in Japan expensive, foreign companies increased their investment in Japan by 46.5 per cent to \$3.24 billion during the fiscal year ended March 31.

U.S. companies accounted for 54.7 per cent of the total, said a report released Wednesday by the Japanese finance ministry.

U.S. investment in Japan jumped 89.1 per cent over the previous year to total \$1.77 bil-

lion, the report said.

During the same period, Japan's direct overseas investment hit a record high for the fifth year in a row, jumping 40.9 per cent in fiscal 1988 over the previous year to \$47.02 billion, a ministry official said, citing a report released Tuesday.

The United States attracted the most direct investment from Japanese companies — \$21.7 billion in fiscal 1988, up 47.6 per cent from the previous year.

A total of \$3.95 billion from Japan went to Britain during the period, up 60 per cent, while Japanese investments in the Netherlands nearly tripled to \$2.39 billion, the report said.

Ministry officials attributed the increase in Japanese direct investment overseas to expansion of overseas production by Japanese manufacturers and of overseas activities by financial and real estate companies.

The report counted as direct overseas investment any investment of more than 10 per cent in a foreign company, investment in overseas branches and expansion of Japanese subsidiaries in foreign countries, the report said.

## Australian foreign debt worsens

SYDNEY (AP) — Australia's total foreign debt hit a record 123.60 billion dollars (\$96 billion) Wednesday and Prime Minister Bob Hawke said it would be folly to abandon tight monetary policies.

"It would be short-term economic lunacy, and in political terms, it would also be political lunacy," said Hawke following release of figures for the quarter ended March 31.

The amount, announced by the bureau of statistics, compares to the 121.62 billion dollars (\$91.21 billion at Wednesday's exchange rate) that Australia owed in the previous three months and was worse than expected.

"If we were to loosen policy, then we would unleash upon the Australian economy an infinitely worse and in a sense, an irrecoverable situation," Hawke said.

The prime minister conceded that Australia could not continue

running large current account deficits and accumulating foreign debt, which ranks among the world's highest.

The Australian dollar, the world's 6th most traded currency, remained stable at around 0.75 U.S. cents. The market Tuesday opened weaker because of jitters about the anticipated foreign debt figure and a warning by a U.S. credit rating agency that Australia's international credit rating may be reviewed.

The bureau of statistics also reported Wednesday that the ratio of Australia's net foreign debt at March 31 to gross domestic product for the 12 months ended March 31 rose to 31.7 per cent from 30.4 per cent in December.

Analysts had expected the debt to increase because of the rising strength of the U.S. greenback against the Australian dollar.

Hawke, at a news conference, said that 61.7 per cent of the

country's foreign debt is owed by the private sector and the rest by state governments or statutory authorities.

"The federal government has no net debt," he said.

The economy this week has attracted major headlines following a warning by Moody's Investors Service that it would review Australia's double A-1 credit rating for another possible downgrade.

Federal Treasurer Paul Keating, attending the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) in Paris, attacked Moody's for its statement, saying, "it's either rank incompetence or a tinge of malice."

John Dawkins, who is standing in for Keating, earlier this week appealed for calm. He said demands by the federal opposition that Keating be recalled home amounted to hysteria.



Bob Hawke

On Wednesday, Dawkins admitted the government is concerned about the level of foreign debt but said: "Indeed, the whole stance of policy is directed toward managing the debt, ensuring the debt can be first stabilised and then reduced."

## Saudis want to drop OPEC pricing

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said in an apparent policy shift that OPEC should abandon its target oil price of \$18 a barrel and rely on production quotas to maintain the price, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

In an interview with the paper

in Riyadh, Nazer said Saudi Arabia would recommend to a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna Friday that the group formally drop its three-year-old price goal of \$18.

He added that Saudi Arabia would also withdraw a recent proposal for a \$15 minimum price.

The New York Times said such a move might make oil prices more volatile if markets could not look to the Saudis and OPEC for price guidance.

Nazer said that without a fixed price and with group discipline, demand for oil could push the price as high as \$20 a barrel. Asked what Saudi Arabia would do if other OPEC members continued to exceed production quotas, Nazer said his country would remain committed to production discipline only if the others did the same.

An Iranian newspaper said Tuesday that Saudi Arabia's oil

policies and its political differences with Iran could make next week's OPEC conference a failure.

The English-language daily Tehran Times, which is close to the Iranian foreign ministry, said political tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia over the Muslim Haj pilgrimage could affect the ministerial meeting.

The strained political relations "can seriously endanger the security and identity of OPEC," the paper said. Its editorial was reported by the official news agency IRNA and received in Cyprus.

The paper said demands by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and possibly the United Arab Emirates for increased quotas and a Saudi proposal for a \$15 per barrel floor price floor instead of a \$18 target price threatened the meeting's success.

The Vienna meeting is to determine a production plan for the group in the second half of 1989. Crude prices have risen about \$5 a barrel since OPEC agreed last November to cut its output ceiling by 20 per cent to 18.5 million barrels per day for the first half of this year.

Iran cooperated with Saudi

Arabia to make that agreement possible.

Iran and Saudi Arabia ended a truce in their bitter war of words two weeks ago after the apparent failure of diplomatic efforts to make the participation of Iranians in the July Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia possible.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said in March that Iran, traditionally for higher prices, would like 1989 to be a year of stability in the oil market.

Algeria opposes increasing oil production ceiling

Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena said in an interview published Tuesday that his country will oppose efforts to increase OPEC's production ceiling.

"We are dissatisfied with the present level of oil prices... we still believe that present oil prices do not reflect the real value of this commodity," Boussena said in an interview with the Kuwaiti daily Al Watan.

Boussena said, "I don't think that the present reference prices of \$18 is sufficiently stable" to support a production increase.

## Jordan receives financial support

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Kuwait, Oman and Iraq have poured millions of dollars into Jordan recently to help the Kingdom cope with an economic difficulty, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official was quoted as saying Wednesday.

Abu Shakour Shaalan, director of the Middle East department of the IMF, told the Saudi Arabian newspaper Asharq Al Awsat that the United States also has promised

to grant Jordan an aid of \$35 to \$40 million.

Shaalan said Kuwait paid Jordan \$40 million and provided it with crude oil worth another \$40 million. Oman and Iraq each paid \$20 million with Iraq promising \$30 million more by the end of the year.

Asked about reports that Jordan had sold a third of its gold reserves, he said: "Selling gold against hard currency

is not harmful, for frozen gold reserves give no interest while hard currencies can give plenty if well exploited."

Shaalan said: "The real essence of the Jordanian economic difficulty was in rising individual and government consumption in excess of national income."

This, he said, represented reduced savings which was a "negative and dangerous" development.

He also referred to the future of the oil-rich Arab countries to fulfill financial assistance pledges to Jordan made at the Baghdad Arab summit in 1978. Some reduced their contributions and others cancelled them, with only Saudi Arabia fulfilling its commitments, he said.

Jordan was promised an annual aid of \$1.2 billion for a 10-year period, which expired at the end of last year.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### Jordan to balance trade with Brazil

AMMAN (R) — Jordan and Brazil are planning a counter-trade deal to reduce Jordan's massive trade gap with the South American giant, a Brazilian embassy source said Wednesday. He said they would soon sign a \$100 million agreement under which Jordanian private-sector imports of iron, timber, paper and food could be bartered for exports by the Jordan Potash Company. The government has a majority stake in the company. Jordanian exports to Brazil last year, mainly potash, were worth \$430,000. They were dwarfed by imports worth \$68 million. But potash exports could now soar because terms under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had been agreed for the protocol with Brazil, the source said. Brazil will accord Jordan most favoured nation status and a five per cent discount on tariffs. Brazil buys 2.3 million tonnes of potash annually while Jordan produces 1.3 million tonnes.

### Jordan, Tunisia open economic talks

TUNIS (Petra) — The Jordanian-Tunisian joint chamber of industry and trade committee opened a meeting here Wednesday to discuss ways of promoting economic cooperation and trade between the two countries. The committee is discussing also difficulties that confront trade deals and means of promoting cooperation between the private sectors in the two countries. Hamd Al Haj Hassan from the Ministry of Industry and Trade is heading the Jordanian side to the meeting, which will conclude Thursday. Hassan said that the recommendations and resolutions will be submitted to the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee meeting due to convene Amman in the coming month. The committee was set by the higher committee at a 1985 meeting.

### India seeks Iraqi railway contracts

BAGHDAD (AP) — India's minister of railways, Madhav Rao Sindhia, said Wednesday he and an accompanying team of experts have discussed with Iraqi officials cooperation in building new railway networks in Iraq. In an interview with the Associated Press, the Indian official said he discussed with his Iraqi counterpart, Mohammad Hamza, a proposal for building four new railway lines linking Baghdad with the southern city of Basra, Jordan, Syria and Turkey. Experts said the Indian company Rites had offered to build the new 550-kilometre Baghdad-Basra line. Rites had made the initial survey that led in 1971 to the construction of a 900-kilometre railway linking Baghdad with a phosphate mine near the Syrian border. The line has a capacity of transporting 500,000 people and 3.9 million tons of freight a year. Another Indian company Iroon has built two other railway lines linking Baghdad with central and southern towns and cities. The Indian official said his country would use its experience of 146 years in railway construction to help Iraq.

### Iranian parliament approves projects

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian parliament has approved an agreement with the Soviet Union to build two dams for generating electricity and irrigating farm land, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Iran's Council of Guardians was expected to give final approval for the plan to build the Khoda Afarin and Qiz Qafshat dams on the Aras river at the border between Iran and the Soviet Union.

### S. Korea considers doubling oil stocks

SEOUL (AP) — The government plans to nearly double its emergency oil stockpiles to more than 70 million barrels by the mid-1990s in view of South Korea's growing oil use, officials have said. The officials at the energy and resources ministry said the project, still under study, would require about \$1.5 billion to build storage facilities and buy oil. The project also is intended to guard against price hikes from another international oil supply crunch. South Korea must import all of its oil. It plans to import 260 million barrels of crude oil this year. The officials said the present reserve of 38 million barrels of crude oil was based on the country's 60-day needs at a daily rate of 500,000 barrels, the consumption level in the early 1980s. They said the daily need now stands at 720,000 barrels and is expected to rise to 1.3 million barrels by the mid-1990s as the economy grows. The government plans to finance the project with funds from local refineries.

### Bulgaria, Iran sign \$200m deal

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Bulgaria signed a series of economic agreements including a deal worth \$200 million, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Wednesday. It quoted Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Hristo Hristov as saying the \$200 million deal was between two Iranian and Bulgarian companies but did not elaborate. He added that Bulgaria was ready to help modernise Iran's defence industry.

## Irish Futures and Options Exchange opens

DUBLIN (R) — Prime Minister Charles Haughey has opened the Irish Futures and Options Exchange (IFOX), Dublin's first new financial exchange in almost 200 years.

Cost-conscious IFOX, whose 24 seats were priced at 60,000 punts (\$90,000) each, decided to reject the colourful "open outcry" systems favoured in London and Chicago and opted instead for automatic trading.

"Our original target was about 500 contracts a day but we would now expect that to double or treble in the first year," chief executive Diarmuid Bradley told Reuters.

"Fifteen hundred contracts a day would give us an underlying value of 100 million punts (\$150 million)," he said.

Trading has begun in three futures contracts — 20-year Irish gilts, an interest rate future based on the three-month Dublin inter bank rate (DIBOR) and a future on the Irish punt/dollar rate.

Bradley said: "Irish companies have to date had no Irish pound way to hedge their rates before. This is a screen-based system and the players can trade very efficiently and effectively. Its costs are low too."

IFOX, whose members include all Ireland's chief financial players like Allied Irish Banks and the Bank of Ireland, is the country's first new exchange since the Dublin Stock Market was founded in 1799.

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## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, May 31, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)
U.S. dollar	566.4	572.4	397.0
Pound Sterling	889.9	896.8	232.5
Deutschemark	284.5	287.3	84.6
Swiss franc	327.0	330.3	39.3
		Belgian franc (for 10)	136.0
			137.4

## DON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.5732/42	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.2050/50	Canadian dollar	
	1.9855/65	Deutschemarks	
	2.2385/95	Dutch guilders	
	1.7130/40	Swiss francs	
	41.58/61	Belgian francs	
	6.7350/400	French francs	
	1440/1441	Italian lire	
	142.57/67	Japanese yen	
	6.6857/925	Swedish crowns	
	7.1700/75	Norwegian crowns	
	7.7325/75	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	364.00/364.50	U.S. dollars	

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The All Ordinaries index was 13.3 lower at 1,528.8 after a combination of negative economic indications.

TOKYO — Prices closed up in a late boost of index-linked buying by investment trusts. The Nikkei index closed up 189.86 at 34,266.75 after falling 83.94 points Tuesday.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index ended 61.59 points down at 2,743.87 as uncertainty over political events in China continued.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times industrial index edged up 1.07 to 1,279.24 in thin trading.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered to close mixed in thin trading on institutional support, after falling in the last two days. End-of-account considerations and the approach of the monsoon season kept investors on the sidelines. Colgate gained 6.25 rupees to 325 and Associated Cement four to 318.

FRANKFURT — Shares hit new highs for the year for the second day in early trading. Undantered by a fit of mid-session profit-taking, they closed higher across the board. The DAX index closed up 4.12 at 1,407.29.

ZURICH — Shares closed little changed. Trading slowed down after a firm opening and prices fell slightly amid renewed concern about possible European interest rate rises. The all-share index eased 0.2 to 1,005.3.

PARIS — Shares were of their early lows by midday but trading was thin, with most operators sidelined because of concerns about possible higher interest rates.

LONDON — Prices in late trading languished near the day's lows as sterling's losses against the mark highlighted concerns over the possibility of an imminent further rise in 14 per cent U.K. base rates. At 1515 GMT the FTSE index was down 16.6 at 2,113.4.

NEW YORK — Stocks were mixed in morning trading and moving in a narrow range, with traders awaiting U.S. jobs data due Friday. The Dow was little changed at 2,476.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT TO POLES**  
The Polish citizens, holders of the Polish passports residents or on temporary stay in Jordan could vote in the elections to the Polish Parliament on June 4th, 1988, at the Polish Embassy, 1st Circle, Jahal Amman, between 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.

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